

SCOTT CONKLIN, MEMBER

CAPITOL OFFICE:  
101B EAST WING  
P.O. BOX 202077  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2077  
(717) 787-9473  
FAX: (717) 780-4784

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTER:  
301 S. ALLEN STREET, SUITE 102  
STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA 16801  
(814) 238-5477  
FAX: (814) 863-3898

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTER:  
209 E. PRESQUEISLE STREET  
PHILIPSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 16866  
(814) 342-4872  
FAX: (814) 342-4874



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

December 23, 2009

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WEBSITE: WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/CONKLIN

Environmental Quality Board  
P.O. Box 8477  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301

RECEIVED

JAN - 4 REC'D

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter I received requesting an examination of the proposed requirement for homeowners utilizing outdoor wood furnaces.

In these difficult economic times, I believe that we need to try and make basic necessities, like home heating, easier and more affordable for our neighbors.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request, and if I may be of assistance, please feel free to contact my office.

Warm regards,

Scott Conklin  
Centre County State Representative

cc: John Albert  
For Michaels, Chief of Staff

Enclosure

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DEC 28 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Dear Legislator Rep. H. Scott Conklin,

I have chosen to heat my home with an outdoor wood furnace for a number of good reasons:

- With the ever changing price of home heating oil, natural gas and LPG, heating with wood is an economical option – a furnace owner that heats with wood in an outdoor furnace can save thousands of dollars a year on home, farm and small business heating costs.
- Heating with wood is consistent with the independent practices of Americans from as far back as colonial times.
- Heating with an outdoor wood furnace eliminates the risks of fires and carbon monoxide poisoning associated with an indoor heating system because the appliance is located outside. Every year literally thousands of homes are damaged or destroyed by fires caused by indoor heating devices.
- Heating with wood results in no net increase in global warming gas emissions. Heating with oil, coal and natural gas is a significant source of global warming gas emissions.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed a regulation for “outdoor wood-fired boilers” that has the potential to impact my ability to continue utilizing my existing appliance. I am strongly opposed to:

- Excessive chimney height requirements for existing and new furnace installations that are not based upon science.
  - Excessive chimney height requirements are costly (parts and height determination), time consuming and may prevent a large number of owners from being able to comply.
- Seasonal prohibition between May 1 and September 30. A statewide seasonal restriction for rural owners, people with their own wood lots, farming operations, greenhouse operations is unreasonable.
- Opacity requirements for residential sized appliances because opacity is a subjective visual observation.

While it is foreseeable that furnace owners creating verifiable nuisances need to increase their chimney to alleviate complaints, it is unreasonable for the Pa DEP to retroactively impose restrictions (with the exception of proper fuel use) on my existing outdoor wood furnace. My appliance was purchased, installed, and operated in good faith prior to the drafting of the regulation.

I am requesting that you act now to assist me to preserve my rights and the rights of existing outdoor wood furnace owners in the State of Pennsylvania by opposing the excessive and retroactive requirements of the proposed regulation. I am supportive of a state law requiring existing furnace owners to have to comply with proper fuel use requirements and for regulations regarding new installations to be reasonable.

Please submit comments to the EQB no later than January 4, 2009 in support of my position. Written comments should be submitted to: Environmental Quality Board, P. O. Box 8477, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477 (express mail: Rachel Carson State Office Building, 16th Floor, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301). Comments submitted via email should be sent to [RegComments@state.pa.us](mailto:RegComments@state.pa.us). You should also attend the four scheduled public hearings to voice your concern (visit <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol39/39-42/1929.html> for details on locations, times and dates).

Please act now to help preserve my rights to heat with wood in a responsible, economical and safe manner.

Sincerely,

John Albert  
Date: 12-7-09

John Albert  
169 Cold Stream Rd  
Philipsburg, PA 16866