

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
MATTHEW E. BAKER**

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HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2068  
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74 MAIN STREET  
WELLSBORO, PA 16901  
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FAX: (570) 724-2168

430 CANTON STREET, SUITE 6  
TROY, PA 16947  
PHONE: (570) 297-3045  
FAX: (570) 297-5551



**2802** *House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**CHAIRMAN, HEALTH & HUMAN  
SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE COMMITTEE  
POLICY COMMITTEE

**CAUCUSES**  
FIREFIGHTERS & EMERGENCY SERVICES  
LOCAL TAX REFORM  
RURAL HEALTH CARE  
SPORTSMEN  
TIMBER

**APPOINTMENTS**  
STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS  
PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL

December 2, 2009

Environmental Quality Board  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
P. O. Box 8477  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Dear Chairman Hanger and Board Members:

Under cover of this letter, I am forwarding letters of opposition from three more of my constituents.

I appreciate your consideration of this correspondence as you deliberate regulation of outdoor wood-fired boilers.

Sincerely,

*Matthew E. Baker*

Matthew E. Baker  
State Representative  
68<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

MEB:wwr

Enclosures

RECEIVED  
2009 DEC 14 PM 4:04  
INDEPENDENT REGULATION  
REVIEW COMMISSION

recd by 11/30/09

Dear Legislator Matt Baker

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

Date: 11-26-09

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DEC - 4 2009

Wilbur O. Anderson JR  
RR2 Box 347  
Troy, PA 16947

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

und July 11/30/09

Dear Legislator MATT BAKER,

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

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

Sincerely,



Date: 11/20/09

Robert M Davis  
1 Pine View Dr.  
TRIN. PA 16947

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DEC - 4 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

November 26, 2009.

Mr. Baker,

This letter is in regards to the wood-fired boiler proposal change in the state regulations.

My family lives in the small town of Canton, PA. A town that has many wood stoves to heat the homes and garages that make up the town.

We have a wood-fired outdoor stove. My husband services it on a weekly basis and maintains it according to all the new regulations that our town has imposed.

We respect our neighbors and their personal rights at all times. We do not start our stove until it is really cold enough to use it, that means if the ordinance says not until October 1<sup>st</sup>, it was November 1<sup>st</sup> before we turned it on this year. If I remember correctly, when we were told we couldn't run our stove after the end of April this year, May was one cold month too! Gee, our neighbors still ran their wood stoves! We complied with the ordinance and shut ours down.

It is hard to understand how a regulation can be considered fair in any way at all when our neighbors have wood stoves in their homes and there is no limit on their use at all and to put restrictions on only the outdoor type stoves. How can it be fair to tell people what kind of stove they are allowed to use or when they can use it to heat their homes? May I assume that there will be a regulation in time to limit all wood burning? This seems more fair than to single out one type in particular.

The outdoor stoves are cleaner to run. No chance for fires in the house, no ashes in the house, no mess.

Has anyone taken into consideration the topography of the land? Our neighbors live across the main street from us, they are uphill from us, we have conformed to the town regulations, we added extra length to our stack, we would not be able to put enough pipe on our stove to meet the requirement. Our stove has been in use since 2001.

I take great pride in all that my family has accomplished. I take great pride in my parents and their families. What wisdom they have shown, I can honestly say that my parents have taught me to be self-sufficient and through the struggle, I could survive just about anything. When the scares come that could eliminate our freedom as we know it, I see my family coming home where they feel safe, and sure of where their next meal will come from.

Do this! Don't do that! Where does all of this end?

I respectfully send this to you for your consideration.

Cindy L. Evans  
194 Troy St.  
Canton PA 17724

H- 570-673-4163  
W 570-673-5127

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