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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

2802

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RULES COMMITTEE

December 18, 2009

John Hanger
Secretary
Department of Environmental Protection
16th Floor, Rachel Carson Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Hanger:

I am writing regarding the proposed rulemaking on outdoor wood-fired boilers (25 Pa.Code, Chapters 121 and 123). As you are aware, this proposed rulemaking is quite controversial, as it would affect our citizens who have invested in outdoor wood-fired boilers by requiring a costly retrofit even if the boilers are not causing any noticeable harm to the neighbors. This proposed rulemaking could make it difficult for our citizens to continue to use their boilers, a primary source of heat for many who are retired and on fixed incomes.

I laud your effort to protect the air quality for the citizens of this Commonwealth, but I would suggest that this type of regulation would be best left to our local governments.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter I received from Matthew Mitchell of Box 48, 219 Apple Lane, Lanse, Pennsylvania. I would appreciate it if someone from your department could contact him to further discuss this proposed rulemaking.

Thank you for your prompt assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Camille George".

Camille George
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CG/dsn

RECEIVED
09 DEC 21 AM 7:12

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2009 DEC 28 PM 2:07
LEGISLATIVE
ADMINISTRATION

Dear Legislator Campbell Rod George

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.
 - o 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.

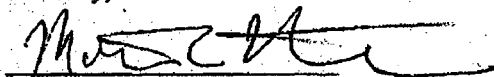
While it is foreseeable that furnace owners creating verifiable nuisances need to increase their chimney to alleviate complaints, it is unreasonable for the Pa DEP to retroactively impose restrictions (with the exception of proper fuel use) on my existing outdoor wood furnace. My appliance was purchased, 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. 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: 12/15/09

Matthew Mitchell
Box 48
219 Apple Lane
Lansie PA
16849