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December 18, 2009

Environmental Quality Board
Rachel Carson State Office Building, 16th Floor
400 Market Street
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2301

RE: 25 PA Code Chapters 121 and 123 Proposed Regulations
Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers

Dear Environmental Quality Board:

I am writing to you to express concerns and raise objections to portions of the proposed regulations for 25 Pa Code chapters 121 and 123 relating to Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers. I have had contact from constituents that I represent regarding this matter and I raise these concerns and objections on their behalf.

As you may know, numerous Pennsylvania residents have invested thousands of dollars each on Outdoor Wood-Fired Boiler systems as a means of providing heat. The proposed regulations, in their current form, would require these residents to increase chimney heights, would impose upon them seasonal prohibitions on use from May through September 30th of each year, and would establish opacity requirements for residential sized appliances. In my view, and in the view of my constituents, these requirements should not be imposed upon existing Outdoor Wood-Fired Boiler systems, but such operations should be grandfathered according to existing law and regulations at the time that the investment was made.

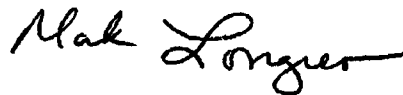
Additionally, such residential systems were installed as an economical alternative to home heating by oil, natural gas and LPG. Therefore, these residents are least able to afford compliance with the proposed regulations. At the same time, the use of wood for heating has a lower net increase in global warming gas emissions than the alternative fuels enumerated above, and an outdoor system eliminates the risk of fires and carbon monoxide poisoning associated with indoor systems.

Further, the chimney height requirements are not only costly, time consuming, and difficult to comply with, but they are also not based upon science. Also, the seasonal prohibition does not account for those who own their own wood lots, farming operations and greenhouse operations. Finally, the opacity requirements for residential sized appliances are unreasonable as opacity is based upon a subjective, visual observation.

It is for all of these reasons that I believe that the regulations should be modified to grandfather existing Outdoor Wood-Fired Boiler systems or to address the proposed chimney height, seasonal prohibition and opacity requirements.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Longiotti", with a stylized, flowing script.

Mark Longiotti
District 7/Mercer County

cc: Rep. Camille George, Chairman,
House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

John Hanger, Secretary
Department of Environmental Protection

Thomas Knight
David Conn