

From: glglvro1@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2010 12:47 PM
To: Gday@pahousegop.com; opake@pasenator.com; EP; RegComments
Subject: EQB- Outdoor Wood Furnace
Attachments: scan0001.jpg

RECEIVED
JAN 02 2010 12:47 PM

NEEDS REGULATION
TOM HANSON

I am attaching a form to this e-mail that was prewritten, which I have signed. I also want to make a few comments about the issue of Outdoor Wood Furnaces.

Back in 2004, I started building my home on approx. 50 acres of woodland that my wife and I bought. I started exploring options for heating our home at that time. We had just sold our 1200 square foot home and I knew what it cost each month for electric and propane to heat our 1200 square foot home. I wanted to go with a different heating system to keep costs down. As we see electric rates rising this year, I am really glad that we did not go with an all electric heat or with the rising cost of fuel, even using oil or propane would have been a burden on us. Besides doing a lot of labor to cut the wood for our outdoor wood furnace, it has been a blessing that we went with the outdoor wood furnace. Our electric rates are actually lower with our 3500 square foot home than with the 1200 square foot home and we don't use propane at all. (Natural gas is not an option of where we live in Longswamp Twp.)

To be honest, I'm not aware of all the new proposed regulations the EQB want to impose but I can tell you this; I have a family to support. I've done everything within my power to provide a good home (building most of the house myself). I have two older sons going to college within the next year and a half and since I work construction, the economy has taken a toll on the work log for the company I work for and I don't know from day to day if I'll be laid-off or if I'll have a job site to go to. Just thankfully I still am working at this time but I don't know for how long. With the cost of colleges coming up, rising electric rates through Met-Ed for 2011, rising cost of living, everything has taken a toll on our budget. I sincerely don't know how I would pay for the additional cost of outfitting our outdoor wood stove to comply with the new regulations. I heat with strictly with wood, 24/7, 365 days a year. (The outdoor stove also heats our hot water.) Imposing regulations on when outdoor stoves can be used would force me to use electric to heat our hot water heater, thus causing a higher electric bill in the summer when electric grids are already at max with all the air conditioners being used. Imposing chimney height requirements on my furnace would be a burden financially in these tough economic time. I can't think of a word to use to describe the injustice the EQB is doing to outdoor wood furnace owners at this time. They REALLY should not be picking on us homeowners for using outdoor wood furnaces when it does not give off any more smoke than someone using a fireplace or indoor wood stove to heat their homes.

Please take everything into consideration (the thousands of hardworking Americans this effects and the economy) when making your decision.

Thank you,
Garry Vroman
120 Benfield Road
Macungie, PA 18062

ar Legislator Day + Opa :

ive 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.

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

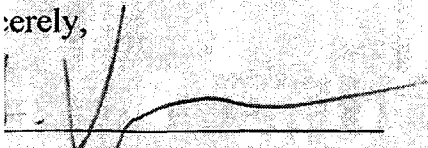
- Excessive chimney height requirements for existing and new furnace installations that are not based upon science
 - o Excessive chimney height requirements are costly (parts and height determination), time consuming and may prevent a large number of owners from being able to comply.
- Seasonal prohibition 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 coming 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 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 Case 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: 1-2-10