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From: Karen Johnson [karenann2525@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2009 8:23 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Fw: Outdoor Wood Fired Burners

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 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 REVIEW COMMISSION

--- On Tue, 12/22/09, Karen Johnson <karenann2525@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Karen Johnson <karenann2525@yahoo.com>
 Subject: Outdoor Wood Fired Burners
 To: RegComments@state.pa.us
 Date: Tuesday, December 22, 2009, 8:13 PM

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

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

- With ever changing price of home heating oil, natural gas and LPG, heating with wood is an economical option - an 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. As a volunteer fireman, I can tell you that 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 proposed regulation for "outdoor wood-fired burners" has the potential to impact my ability to continue utilizing my existing appliance thereby, causing me undue financial hardships. 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, time consuming, and may prevent a large number of owners from being able to comply.

- 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 opposed to the excessive and retroactive requirements of the proposed regulation. If passed as currently written, I believe that the regulation will adversely impact my rights and the rights of existing outdoor wood furnace owners to have to comply with proper fuel use requirements and for regulations regarding new installations to be reasonable.

Sincerely,

Jerry C. Johnson
Karen A. Johnson
70 Main St
Roulette, PA 16746
12/22/09