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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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DEC 21 2009

Environmental Quality Board

P.O. Box 8477

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Hearing 1-4-10

RE: Outdoor Wood Burners (OWB)

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

In my situation I live on top of a hill with the nearest house 1500 feet away. I have a one year old OWB that cost me \$12,000.00 to purchase and install. It saves me approximately \$3,000/year on utility costs. Like myself, many Pennsylvanians saw the OWB as a major improvement over indoor fireplaces, indoor stoves and kerosene heaters that were fire hazards and/or very inefficient.

In order for me to comply with the proposed rules regarding having the stack be 2 feet above the roof line I would have to extend my present 16 foot stack to 32 feet high in order to get above the roof of my home. This is completely unnecessary, very expensive and not practical. A stack that high would be unsafe and an eye sore. It would most likely lead to great creosote build up (exposed chimneys cool as they get higher). Also, I would not be able to inspect or clean a 32 foot stack. Any proposed rules (except for nuisance situations) should not include the home(s) being served by the OWB.

Having a closed burning season from May 1 through September 30 is unreasonable and unnecessary. Some nights in early May and late September are quite cold. Many people who use outdoor wood burners have no back up heat source. Such a rule would be a grave hardship especially for families that have children and elderly members. Some families, farms or small businesses (e.g., greenhouses) use the outdoor wood burner to provide heat or hot water year round. Most people shut down their OWB during the warmer months because they don't need them and in order to avoid unnecessary work. Across the board state wide regulations are huge overkill.

Pennsylvania is a large diverse state that is mostly rural. Local regulations that effect populated areas and cover nuisance situations are already in place. Proposed state wide rules regarding existing OWBs that were and still are completely legal will be a great hardship for many rural Pennsylvanians (many of whom are of very limited means). The rules as proposed for existing OWBs will be impossible for many owners to meet. In effect our OWBs are being confiscated.

On 12-4-09 President Obama gave a speech in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He called for a greater emphasis on renewable energy. Wood is a renewable energy source and is a part of a national energy solution. Burning wood in an OWB is carbon neutral. Home heating oil and electric heat (read coal) produce large amounts of carbon dioxide. Natural gas is not available (due to lack of pipelines) for most of rural Pennsylvania.

Do we really want to punish rural Pennsylvania citizens who have taken the initiative and borne the expense and work of heating with wood and then make them use polluting alternatives that come from places like Saudi Arabia and Venezuela?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



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