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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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DEC 17 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

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 an outdoor wood 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 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 does not in a net increase in global 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 boilers" 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. 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 and greenhouse operations is unreasonable.
- Opacity requirements for residential sized appliances because opacity is a subjective, visual observation.

While it is foreseeable that the furnace owners creating verifiable nuisances need to increase their chimney height to alleviate complaints, it is unreasonable for the PA DEP to retroactively impose restrictions (with the exception of proper fuel use) on my existing wood furnace. My appliance was purchased, installed and operated in good faith prior to the drafting of the regulation. In face, prior to the purchase, I contacted my township office, discussed my plans to install an outdoor furnace and asked of any regulations that would prohibit me from doing so. I was told that none existed and there was no reason why I should not go forward with my plans.

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 that use these appliances in a responsible manner. 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.

Sincerely,

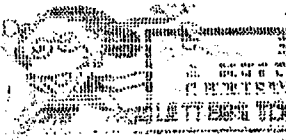
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12/10/09


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