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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Sirs:

In regard to the proposed regulation of Outdoor Wood Boilers (OWBs), 25 PA code CHS 121 & 123, I have several comments. I purchased and installed my OWB in 1998. I am certain it doesn't meet the proposed criteria for efficiency, stack height, and minimum distance from my dwelling. The cost to comply would be prohibitive. The logistics of installing a permanently attached stack are mind-boggling (Do I install guide wires to secure 40' of pipe, or do I build a 40' masonry chimney?) With no other heat source, how will I heat my house when I'm forced to stop burning?

I don't understand how my OWB "pollutes" more than an indoor fireplace or wood stove. Do you also plan to regulate those? Prior to installing my OWB, I burned wood 24/7 in an indoor stove and still had high electric bills. By removing my electric heat and installing hot water baseboard fueled by my OWB, my electric bill was drastically reduced. It seems to me that the Government should be rewarding, not punishing, citizens who have taken the initiative to use alternate energy sources.

If new regulation is necessary, please consider these proposals:

1. "Grandfather" existing OWBs. People have made significant monetary investments and shouldn't be penalized. When existing OWBs need to be replaced, the replacement unit will then be in compliance, as it will meet the new standards.
2. Exempt large property owners. Perhaps if a property qualifies for the "Clean and Green" tax laws, it should be exempt.

Sincerely,



Jacob Eppley
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Lewisberry, PA 17339

cc: State Representative Scott Perry
Senator Patricia Vance