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December 15, 2009

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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RE: Proposed outdoor wood burner regulations.

DEC 21 2009

Dear Sir,

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

In the last 12 years I have used my outdoor wood burner to heat the house on my farm. The burner has allowed me to avoid buying 50,000 gallons of foreign oil. At a time when we are at war in that part of the world and oil profits help fund our enemies, I consider using my outdoor wood burner to be a very patriotic activity.

Also, the net income on my farm is around \$20,000.00 per year. We pay \$10,000.00 in Real Estate taxes to our Township, County, and School District. This amount is about equal to the savings generated from using my outdoor wood burner. Forced to quit using our own source of energy by DEP over regulation will definitely result in the sale of our farm. As the last vegetable farm in our township this would be a devastating loss to the local residents who value the fresh produce we provide.

The proposed DEP regulations are incredibly anti rural and anti farmer! They do not propose to ban city residents use of wood stoves or fireplaces. Nor do they propose to stop the Nature Conservatory from burning entire mountain tops to artificially maintain the supposedly endangered scrub oak on these mountains.

At a time when we still teeter on the edge of a depression, DEP proposes to shut down an entire industry, including American manufacturers of these outdoor wood burners and the loggers who provide the wood itself. Because of depressed building lumber prices, most loggers I know are surviving only through firewood sales. If they lose this source of income they will surely join the ranks of the unemployed and their equipment and possibly their homes will be repossessed.

Please stop DEP from implementing these regulations.

Sincerely,


Jim Ritter, owner

Ritter's Farm
1459 Mount Cobb Rd Jefferson Twsp., PA 18436