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Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2010 3:46 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: outdoor furnace

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

To Whom it may concern,

It was recently brought to my attention that the PA Environmental Quality Board has proposed new regulations concerning the use of outdoor wood furnaces. After looking at the proposed changes, I felt I should write you this letter.

It seems these new regulations are being proposed to address individuals who own and operate outdoor furnaces in urban areas. I can understand why neighbors of these individuals might be upset with the operation of these appliances. I also understand, from news stories I have seen on television and read about in newspapers that the local municipalities are addressing these conflicts on their own. I believe this is the way these issues should be handled. The board's recommendations could be called upon by a municipality which is placing restrictions on the use of these appliances. However, I feel the proposals the board is making are too restrictive because each municipality within the commonwealth has its own unique qualities and circumstances.

In my own use of an outdoor furnace, I have never had a complaint from any of my neighbors concerning its use. I live in a very rural part of the commonwealth which is one of the main reasons I decided to use an outdoor furnace knowing I did not have someone else living 75 feet away who I could possibly be offending by its use. I feel the proposed regulations you have in mind are extremely excessive for people living in a rural area of the state.

I hope that if and when any changes are made, they take into consideration that rural areas are completely different from urban or even suburban areas.

Thank you.

John Hewett

PS—I don't want to get into the effects this change will have on the state's economy. Just suffice it to say, it will be expensive for a lot of people in the commonwealth.