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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Environmental Quality Board  
PO Box 8477  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Environmental Quality Board:

I installed an OWB 2 ½ years ago, and have not received one complaint from the five homes within 500 feet of my OWB. In fact, one homeowner actually gave me wood for the OWB. Upon construction of our family room, for safety reasons we went with the OWB instead of an indoor wood burner. With the OWB we do not use our natural gas furnace or water tank. With both of these shut off we have zero percent chance of carbon monoxide poisoning. From 1999 to 2006 there were 210 deaths in the US just from natural gas heating appliances alone, from carbon monoxide poisoning. (Source: US Consumer Product Safety Commission/EPHA). Also with OWB you have no chance of a chimney fire damaging or destroying your home. In the US from 2004-2006 there were over 75,000 homes damaged or destroyed from chimney fires, causing over \$361 million dollars in property damage. (Data obtained from the US Fire Administration and NFPA.)

Knowing every day and night my family of five is safe from carbon monoxide or a chimney fire is again the biggest reason for having an OWB. I only use natural wood and agree that treated wood, garbage, tires, etc. should not be used. Also, I have no problem operating only from October to May.

If I would have installed an indoor burner my chimney would have only had to have been high enough to vent properly and would have been nowhere near two feet higher than the highest peak within 500 feet of the burner. For these reasons, I feel that the proposed height requirements are way out of line. I have seen dozens of homes that have fireplaces and indoor burners within 50-100 feet of nearby homes where the chimney is not two feet above their peak with the smoke coming out and going right at their neighbor's house(s).

I, again feel it is totally unjust to restrict and request chimney heights on OWB that were installed before any requirements existed and that homes with indoor wood burners and fireplaces can have the same smoke but NO restrictions at all on their chimneys.

Thank You,



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