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December 29, 2009

JAN - 4 2010

Ms. Rachel Carson
State Office Building, 16th Floor
400 Market St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Dear Ms. Carson,

This letter is in response to the proposed new regulations for outdoor furnace owners. I understand why EQB has concerns. Last year before purchasing my outdoor furnace I did a considerable amount of research. I wanted to buy the best furnace to fit my needs and budget. Part of my research included speaking with numerous outdoor furnace owners and some of their neighbors. On occasion there were complaints about excessive smoke emitting from some of the furnaces. Most of those furnaces were in close proximity to other houses. I also learned that most complaints came from the neighbors of furnace owners who were burning household trash and or green wood. The majority of the furnaces that people complained about were low cost and low efficient furnaces.

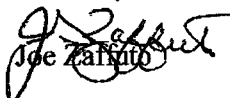
I then talked with my only neighbor (300 feet away) and informed him of my intent to purchase a high efficiency outdoor wood-burning furnace. I informed him I would only be burning seasoned dry wood. He had no problem with it then nor does he have a problem with it now a year later. Prior to installing my outdoor furnace I checked local and state laws to make sure I was legal. Like many others I converted to an outdoor furnace because of the high cost of fuel oil. I have spent over \$15,000.00 converting my heating system over with the anticipation that it would pay for itself over time. Now your agency is proposing regulations that I not only can't meet financially but also because of terrain can't meet structurally. Before any regulations are passed I urge you to consider that the majority of outdoor wood furnaces are not nuisances. Why is there no stipulation in the proposal for non-nuisance furnaces to be grandfathered in? How can EQB, a government agency, expect the people to absorb these costs? I, like many others never thought a government agency would make such drastic regulations without exceptions.

The two proposals that are very concerning to me are the stack heights having to be two feet above the highest surrounding rooflines and not being permitted to sell my furnace within the state of Pennsylvania. I would eventually like to upgrade my furnace to a new phase II furnace. However, if I am not permitted to sell my existing furnace in the state of Pennsylvania and upgrade would be virtually impossible.

I ask that you consider changing the proposed regulations to permit **non-nuisance** furnaces that are currently in compliance with existing laws and allow for the resale of existing furnaces.

Please feel free to contact me at the above number with any questions.

Sincerely,


Joe Zaffuto

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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