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November 27, 2009

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Dear Environmental Quality Board

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

I have been heating my home and domestic water with my outdoor woodburner since November 1997. I chose to use an outdoor woodburner for a number of reasons:

- ① The natural gas furnace we had been using in the basement developed a problem and the carbon monoxide nearly killed us.
- ② To save money on heating costs.
- ③ To have nearly unlimited domestic hot water.
- ④ We are not adding to the net increase in global warming gas emissions.

The PA DEP's proposed regulations for outdoor wood-burners has the potential to ban my using my woodburner. I am strongly opposed to:

① Excessive chimney heights. We don't live within a quarter mile of neighbors. A lot of rural Pennsylvanians using wood burners have no close neighbors to bother. It will be nearly impossible and costly to meet this regulation. This requirement did not exist when I had my burner installed.

② The seasonal prohibition between May 1 and September 30 is unfair since one big reason for using the outdoor burner was the nearly unlimited hot domestic water and it saves \$30-\$60 per month on the electric bill. We have no close neighbors to bother.

③ Opacity requirements for residential appliances is a subjective visual observation.

I can understand that some wood burners, indoor as well as outdoor, can cause nuisances and concerns in towns but it is unreasonable to retroactively and statewide impose restrictions, with the exception of proper fuel use, on all outdoor woodburner owners. My outdoor wood burner was purchased, installed, and operated all these years in good faith prior to the drafting of this regulation.

I am opposed to the excessive and retroactive requirements of the proposed regulation. If passed as currently written, I believe the regulation will adversely impact my rights and the rights of many other existing outdoor wood furnace owners. I am supportive of a state law requiring existing furnace owners to have to comply with proper fuel use requirements and for regulations regarding new installations to be ~~reasonable~~ reasonable.

Sincerely,
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