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Environmental Quality Board

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I believe your proposed changes would unduly impact current owners of outdoor wood boilers. One of the alarming changes is requiring all existing owners to install a chimney 2' higher than a neighbor's residence located within 500' of the outdoor wood boiler. In my situation, there is a residence sitting up a hill from me just within 500 feet. That would require me to erect a chimney that would be approx. 75 feet in height to meet the requirement. A 75' chimney would be extremely expensive, impracticable and may also require the exhaust port on the boiler to be altered in order to withstand the weight and stabilization of the additional lengths of chimney. How do you service it? It is also my opinion that putting up a chimney of that height would be a hazard as I live on a hill that receives strong winds throughout the year and it would also be approx. 4' away from electric service wires.

There are other restrictions imposed in this document however, they do not affect me as I only burn wood in my outdoor wood boiler and turn it off during the summer months.

I just purchased my outdoor wood boiler and had it professionally installed in January of 2009 in order to cut down on rising fuel prices. I listen to congress say that we need to lessen our dependence on foreign oil but their actions prove differently as seen in this proposal.

I ask you to look into this proposal and at the very least have the wording changed to grandfather all existing outdoor wood boilers. This proposal leads one to believe that the cost would be very minimal to bring existing outdoor wood boilers up to their specifications. I am sure that this will be a costly endeavor because I am sure there will be permits to buy under the new building codes, specifications for chimney construction and inspections. Had these stipulations been in place at the time I purchased my outdoor wood boiler, I would have reconsidered purchasing/installing it.

While it is foreseeable that furnace owners creating verifiable nuisances need to increase their chimney to alleviate complaints, it is unreasonable for the Pa DEP to retroactively impose restrictions (with the exception of proper fuel use) on existing outdoor wood boilers without examining each setting individually. My boiler was purchased, installed and operated in good faith prior to the drafting of the regulation.

I am opposed to the excessive and retroactive (chimney height requirements) of the proposed regulation. If passed as currently written, I believe that the regulation will adversely impact my rights and the rights of existing outdoor wood furnace owners that use these appliances in a responsible manner. I am supportive of state law requiring existing furnace owners to have to comply with proper fuel use requirements and for regulations regarding new installations.

Sincerely,
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