

December 28, 2009

Environmental Quality Board  
 P.O. Box 8477  
 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

RECEIVED

2010 JAN 12 PM 7:30

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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JAN - 4 2010

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

RE: Wood Burner Rules Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

We are a low to mid income family just trying to keep a head of the never ending tax increases. Our daughter is a single parent on a very small income and is living right next door with her nine year old son. (She was laid off in May and has not been able to find good employment yet.) Our decision to purchase an outdoor wood burner was to elevate the high cost of winter heating for both our home and our daughter's home.

Therefore we have found several issues with your proposed rules for outdoor wood burners in Pennsylvania.

First the chimney height requirements for phase two units are much higher then necessary. According to our outdoor wood burner manufacture and distributor the stack height is a function of the furnace's performance and changing the height could affect how the furnace operates. Also as an owner of an existing unit you are proposing that our stack be extended two feet above the peek of the highest residence within 500 feet of our outdoor wood burner. In our case with the terrain of our property the closest residence is up hill from our wood burner which means to get our stack two feet higher our stack would have to be extended 50 feet above the appropriate height. Not only would this cause our wood burner not to function properly but it is very impractical and next to impossible to stabilize such a tall stack.

Please consider "Grandfathering" in existing units and as for us set requirements for the phase 2 units the minimum of 150 feet from the nearest property line is also something to be reconsidered. With the location of the wood burner depends on the location of the house and accessibility to the wood burner to bring in the wood. In some cases this would total eliminate some people.

Please do not pass this bill but take the time to find compromise between the bleeding hearts for the environment and the people like us struggling to find more cost effective ways to keep warm.

Please go to the manufactures of these outdoor wood burners such as Mahoning. Listen to what they have to say. I am sure there could be middle ground. If your bill of rules is passed this could potentially put lost more people out of work. Mahoning is a manufacture right here in western Pennsylvania that could loose lots of business and end of closing. The last thing we need in Pennsylvania is more job loss.

Please vote no or at least table this bill of rules until further research can be done.

Sincerely,



Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer T. Gath  
 312 Kelly Road  
 Ruffs Dale, PA 15679