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OUTDOOR WOOD STOVES

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

The current recession is much like the one we have known all our life in the northern tier. Many like me have made their way by working out and then coming home and working to provide as much as possible for our families. We have cut wood, grown gardens, and fixed our tools, our tractors, our cars, and our homes. We have helped our parents as they have grown older and we have helped our children to become self-reliant.

There are thousands of outdoor woodstoves in the Bradford Sullivan County area I know. They have been a God send to me and to others. We have invested thousands of dollars in our heating systems. Many have loans on those heating systems. We have bought chain saws, tractors, pick-ups, trailers, and tools to harvest our wood. We pay taxes on farms, woodlots, and properties to provide our own supply of wood. For some these heating systems are the only ones they own (they do not have a back-up system).

Little did I imagine when we bought our wood burner that I would become embroiled in a local hassle and now a state hassle. I have burned wood for at least 35 years and my 90 year old father in law was born to a wood burning life and lived that way all his life. It is as if we have become involved in an illegal activity.

My outdoor woodstove has moved the fire out of our home. I am so grateful for this!

It will be a sad day in Pennsylvania when people are forced to abandon their outdoor woodstoves as a result of clever legislation designed to make it impossible to meet new codes.

Pennsylvania has a well known business climate that has discouraged new business. It now appears it will become very difficult for self reliant citizens to support their families. This proposal cuts at the heart of our self-reliance. As our self-reliance is chipped away, it leaves me to wonder about a dim future. As citizens lose the knowledge of how to heat their homes we will move in the direction of helplessness and welfare.

I take great comfort in returning to our warm home after a cold day outside. It is sad and disappointing to spend energy on this defense of our home heat.

I think they should move your offices outside beginning this January where the cool fresh air will help you make good decisions for Pa. Citizens, save the gov. some money on heat for your offices and return the savings to the citizens of Pa.

Sincerely Tom Evans