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From: Charles E Gallagher [mcnoonie@epix.net]
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2010 1:07 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Letter of Support for New EQB Regulations
Attachments: Letter To EQB About Wood Boilers.doc

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

To Whom It May Concern:

The attached letter, is a letter of support for the new EQB Regulations of Wood-Fire Boilers. I would like my comments of support entered into the official hearing record.

Thank-you

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2010 JAN 19 PM 1:12

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Charles E Gallagher
137 North 3rd St, PO Box 156
Berrysburg, Pa 17005-0156
717-362-9015
January 15, 2010

Environmental Quality Board
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, Pa 17105-8477

Subject: Comments in Support of Increased Regulation of Wood-Fired Boilers

To Environmental Quality Board:

I am writing in support of the increased DEP regulations on the Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers. These DEP regulations that will soon come before the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) are long overdue. For the past 3 years, similar regulations have been working their way through various municipal and zoning boards across the state. These regulations have been vetted by good science and the new regulations will help strengthen and ensure what's guaranteed to every citizen by the 37th amendment to Pennsylvania's Constitution, their right to clean air. As an architect of one of these "local ordinances", I realize how important these DEP regulations will be in minimizing the debilitating health effects caused by the emissions from these units. By passage of the new regulation, EQB is lending its creditability to many studies that have been completed by leading universities and independent study groups; as to the adverse health effects caused by emissions from these units.

These new regulations will also help the unit owners by *standardizing* the rules for new installations, controlling what materials are burned and how they are maintained thus extending the useable life of these units. I'm sure I don't have to tell you that just one of these units improperly installed or maintained can be substantially dirtier and less efficient than other home heating technologies. An investigation by the New York State Attorney General's Environmental Protection Bureau found that even when used properly, one of these units can emit as much fine particle pollution as:

- 2 heavy-duty diesel trucks
- 12 EPA-certified indoor wood stoves
- 45 passenger cars
- 1,000 homes with oil heat
- 1,800 homes with natural gas heat

I feel strongly about this issue because my community is small and has many older citizens and young children. Many with the health problems that can and have been aggravated by the emissions from several of these units. As a Borough Council, my colleagues and I have had to deal with numerous problems caused by emissions from these units. We have people on adjacent properties that have complained because they can't use certain rooms in their homes when these units are operating. We've had to deal neighbor to neighbor hostility, hostility from owners of these units toward government officials; the Borough Council has endured threats of lawsuits from the owners of these units for trying to regulate them. We also had threats of lawsuits from citizens who have suffered health effects from the emissions. We received letters from a manufacturer of these units threatening our small community with legal action if we adopted certain guidelines for the proper installation and maintenance of these units. We had an owner of one of these units that was burning municipal and biological waste. We have one owner that absolutely refuses to let us inspect his boiler or get it permitted (we have started legal action against this individual). We had threats of physical violence against council members. It's gotten so bad that our council president has resorted to carrying a pistol in his brief case. We've had a good councilman resign over this issue. I had nails put in my driveway and a bullet hole through one of the windows in my house over this single issue. As Councilmen, we've been on the frontlines with issue and we need DEP support on this very contentious issue. Many municipalities will not do anything to correct this issue because it's not a popular issue and they don't want to deal with problems that go with regulating these units so their citizen suffer in silence because there is no one advocating for them.

I think this issue to far too important to the communities in the state to allow this issue to be wrapped in the flag and sold as a personal freedoms issue as some legislators are trying to do. As anyone who's read the new regulations knows, these proposed regulations don't take away anyone's personal freedoms; they simply set a standard for the installation and maintenance of these units. The next time a 5 or 6 year old kid looks you in the eye, while he or she has to use oxygen to breath, you won't have to tell them it is personal freedom issue, or the next time you have to tell someone they can't use the upstairs in their home because it's full of wood smoke, that it's a personal freedoms issue or the house wife that has to wash her laundry 2 or 3 times to get the smell of smoke out of her kids clothes, it's a personal freedoms issue. I want you to think about this letter and not back down from any legislator pressure. I give you my support for these regulations.

I'm willing to testify as a Borough Councilmen as to the importance of this issue. I believe this is a health and safety issue and not a personal freedoms issue and it must be dealt with head on. This is one of those issues you can't run and hide from; the voice of educated reason must prevail. This issue has already split too many communities and made lifelong enemies of neighbors.

Environmental Quality Board

December 10, 2009

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I'm urging you to please get these new EQB regulations in force, so we can all breathe a little easier.

Sincerely,

Charles E Gallagher
Berrysburg Borough Councilmen