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**From:** KIRBY AMES [kames7@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2010 10:48 PM  
**To:** EP, RegComments  
**Subject:** Outside Wood Burners

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

I would like to call your attention to the outside wood burning issue. One of the alarming changes is requiring existing owners (no grandfather clause) to install a chimney 2' higher than a neighbor's residence or my own located within 500' of the outdoor wood boiler. I know of a couple units that are set up at the base of a hill. They have neighbors on the up hill side within 500' for older units. To comply with the new regulations they would have to put a chimney in excess of 100' tall. As I understand it once the chimney starts to cool it would just quit functioning properly. Does this even sound reasonable or practical? In my situation I have no neighbors within approximately 600 - 700 feet from my house. However I only own 1.5 acres. My property is 150' deep and 500' long. By the setback regulations I would not be allowed to operate my wood burner. I have used my wood burner since 1990. I burn it year round for heat and for domestic hot water. This is my only heat source. The other restriction imposed is on the fuel to be used in these machines. They are omitting coal which should impact PA's production and waste oil. There currently are outdoor wood boilers that are designed to burn these products. Household trash is also banned to be burned in outdoor wood boilers but in Venango Co. it would be legal to do so in a pit or barrel. I believe, what sense does that make? As I also understand it, if I had an inside wood burner or a fire place these regulations would not apply. Does this really make sense?

I ask you to look into this proposal and at the very least have the wording changed to grandfather all existing outdoor wood boilers. The proposal leads one to believe that the cost would be very minimal to bring existing outdoor wood boilers up to their specifications. I assure you that it will be a costly endeavor because I am sure their will be permits to buy under the new Building Codes and specifications for chimney construction. Had these stipulations been in place when the now existing outdoor wood boilers were installed they would have reconsidered their placement or even installing one. I am not opposed to cleaner burning units but I do not believe 2010 restrictions should apply to prior manufactured units. I listen to congress say that we need to lessen our dependence on foreign oil but their actions prove differently as seen in this attachment.

Sincerely,

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