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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Subject: Out door stove issue:

The first thing I want to tell you is that 4- years ago my wife and I decided to do something about the high cost of oil to heat our home. It was really getting to be a cost problem. I was 62 at the time and my wife 60. We purchased an out door wood stove and the cost return has been great. We have paid for the wood stove in the savings of oil we did not purchase. Now at 65 and I am retired (and every single dollar counts) the out door stove continues to save us on heat and hot water. Our house is about as energy efficient as possible—right in line with all the "green stuff" we're all hearing about today—But we did that 30 years ago.

The new regulation is that the stove pipe "must be" 2 feet above the highest peak of the highest residence within 500 feet. Well, how would you "support" a stove pipe 32 ft high or more, with the wind in most areas, that would not last, not to mention the cost of the triple wall pipe. The draft to your stove with a stove pipe 35ft high, the controls couldn't control the fire properly and would endanger the user and surrounding area. You could not use the common single wall pipe—the creosote that would build up in there from the pipe being so long and in the cold winter air, would be a really great FIRE hazard. (that would be worse then the smoke)

They also mentioned "Clean Wood" wood pellets made from "Clean wood" certain home heating oil, natural gas or propane fuels—have you looked at the price of these fuels—and I'm sure that very soon the price of these is going to go up—they never get any cheaper, never. With all that's going on with Green energy, the oil industry, and the "new" Gas exploration costing millions of dollars, the cost impact will take it's toll on a lot of people, not just older ones either.

I cut my own fire wood, I'm not familiar with "clean wood" or is that some new name of regular fire wood that will allow them selling it to charge twice as much for it.

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These new "rules" are not a help, they would have a detrimental effect on my self and all my neighbors that use wood stoves. With all that has gone on in the last 2-years and currently, loss of income, gas prices at \$2.75/gal (that's what I'm paying now) cost of absolutely every thing that we purchase, health costs for us (going up big time with less coverage) this is not any help what so ever.

There are enough LOCAL regulations in place, and quite frankly this is a local issue because each local area is different and you can't just "blanket" the condition with rulings. Let the townships and local government put what ever ordinances in place that are needed for their areas. That is the MOST efficient and cost effective way of handling this issue.

The stove industry has and will continue to improve the efficiency of their stoves and make them cleaner burning just out of competition with each other. I believe this basic concept is what stimulates business and industry. I think that concept is what made this country what it was at one time,-- great, not currently.

So in closing, lets leave the local issues to the local governments—that's what they do best for all concerned, and for a change, how about the state government trying to run the state issues—that's what they're there for.

*Henry M. Pletka, Sr.*