

2-3-2010

RECEIVED

2010 FEB 12 PM 1:36

Dear members of the Environmental Quality Board,

I oppose the whole idea of regulating Outdoor Wood Burning Boilers on a statewide level. Additionally, I oppose specific portions of the proposed regulations. I hope that this effort fails, either wholly or at least in parts.

I am concerned that a very "localized" problem, or at most a "regionalized" problem (poor air quality due to high particulates) is being pursued with a "statewide" solution. Local government bodies throughout the state already have the authority to restrict the use of these stoves where they do not belong. Poor air quality in a few counties should not cost the freedom of residents in most counties.

I should not have to point out the benefits of the outdoor boilers. They use local, renewable, inexpensive fuel requiring little transportation or processing. Folks heating their homes and water via this method are taxing the power grid less than most, allowing electricity, fuel oil, and natural gas to be less in demand and subsequently less expensive for those who, living in more densely populated areas, do not have the option of safely burning wood

② a distance from their homes. The political benefits from burning any type of domestically produced renewable fuel should not be overlooked as well.

Unnecessary attempts at regulating larger and larger portions of the lives and livelihoods of citizens feeds a common perception that government is out of touch with large portions of the population. There is a well founded fear that once outdoor wood fired boilers come under statewide regulation, indoor wood stoves and fireplaces will soon follow, as they utilize the same fuel and put the same pollutants into the air. Folks I know recognize that there must be laws governing behaviors to protect the innocent, but most agree that the minimum number of these regulations is the best. They can see that these changes would impact the dealers and manufacturers of the stoves as well as the citizen who decides to sell his existing non-compliant stove. In a nation where freedom was emphasized through our past history, it is said that regulation on regulation seems to be the trend under the current governor.

③

As to the specific proposed changes to the regulation of outdoor wood fired boilers, I oppose the stack height requirements, the setback requirements, the seasonal restrictions for domestic hot water, and the restriction on the sale of non-compliant stoves.

These changes will all make it more expensive to live in rural Pennsylvania.

I have been told that enforcement will only be on an "as needed" basis since DEP does not have staff to actively survey and inspect all of the stoves in the State. This does not alleviate my concerns, as I would, and most people would, like to be in compliance with all state laws on the books and not have to worry about looking over our collective shoulders.

In short, I oppose both the principle and the specifics of outdoor woodstove regulation. Thank You for soliciting and listening to my comments.

RECEIVED

FEB - 9 2010

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Brian Williams
12462 Wing Rd
Conneautville, PA 16406