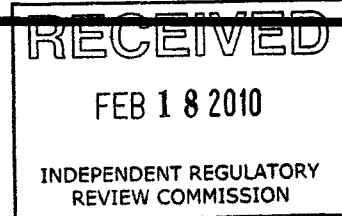


From: James Jones [shurfine40@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 9:42 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Leave regulation of wood boilers to locals!



To Environmental Quality Board

I live on the outskirts of a small village in rural Potter County. I heat my home with a safe outside wood boiler.

I used to heat with a wood stove in the house. It was never warm unless you were in the same room with the stove. The dirt, bugs, leaves that came into the house made keeping the house clean a chore.

That doesn't count filling the house with smoke while filling it with wood. When I took out the wood stove chimney, I found that the chimney blocks had split above the ceiling, just waiting to set the house afire.

I have invested several years of my extra cash in installing a safe, efficient outdoor wood boiler in a location where the smoke most of the time avoids neighbor's homes.

I don't have to worry about carbon monoxide, my chimney catching fire and setting my home afire.

Most of the smoke from these is produced while starting a fire for only a short time in the morning. After the fire is going, there is very little smoke from these if firewood is used as fuel. The firewood I burn is scrap wood from the forest left after the logger crews are done. It helps to clean the forest after logging. Many sources of firewood are available from farmers who sell this scrap, from the state forests where you can buy a permit to cut trees that need thinned so the good ones can thrive, and from sawmills who have scrap wood they can't sell after making their products.

Since I installed this boiler, my house has been warm in winter for the first time since I lived here. Several neighbors have outside wood boilers and have had the same experiences. My neighbor across the street lost half of their house to a devastating house fire started by a wood stove. Many homes are lost each year due to chimney fires.

The outside wood boiler takes all the danger away by putting it outside away from one's home.

Many commercial establishments use these boilers to heat their stores. One man uses one fueled by coal to heat his car washes. These one size fits all regulations do not even allow coal as a fuel in them. Wood is a renewable resource. It is not a non-renewable fuel like coal, gas, and oil. It's grown right here in my area, not in the middle east.

Many green projects are being funded and applauded to use this same woody biomass (fancy name for wood) fuel to provide heat for schools and hospitals, and a nearby community is exploring a community bio-mass system to heat many buildings in the boro. Instead of making this efficient means to heat homes difficult or impossible to use with a one size fits all regulation, (our legislature will not vote on this), why not put state resources into designing a more efficient burning box to make these boilers more efficient to use by recycling the smoke to help remove contaminants from the effluent.

Help remove our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels in Pennsylvania.

The Environmental Quality Board should allow this regulation, if necessary, to be a local issue and not a statewide rule. Also note that the regulation will make it illegal to even sell an existing outside wood boiler in Pennsylvania, so one will not even be able to recoup any of their investment by selling their present boilers. I put my boiler in knowing that I could afford to heat my home with it at an affordable price.

At almost 70 years old, it would be difficult to go back to work to buy another heating system that would use a fuel that I can not afford on my social security check. It barely keeps food on the table and pay for medications. Please stop this regulation now. There are at least 5 of these heating systems in my neighborhood and no one has a problem with them. It is our only source for heat.

Chimney height regulations would be an overly expensive and dangerous venture. My chimney would have to be 40 feet high to meet the regulation for existing use. It would require guy wires, concrete bases, and would be nearly impossible to clean without heavy equipment. Houses are 2 1/2 story here. The highest in the area would be upwind from me and also has a outdoor wood boiler.

There are many more important things to regulate than to take away a man's ability to heat his home reasonably. Nearly every day, inside wood stoves cause house fires in this area. Tonight firemen are trying to save a house in Port Allegany whose chimney is on fire from an inside wood stove. Let us keep our safe, outside wood boilers. No house fires, no carbon monoxide deaths, no exorbitant gas, oil or electric bills.

Please, I respectfully ask you to abandon this regulation on a statewide basis. Let the locals regulate it if necessary.

Thanks in advance,

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