

**From:** Jeanne Leaver [jeanneleaver3@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2010 9:35 PM  
**To:** EP, RegComments  
**Subject:** outdoor wood boilers/furnaces

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

To Whom It May Concern:

I urge you to ban outdoor wood boilers/furnaces because the excessive smoke from them can rob someone of their home, as one has robbed us of ours.

Like many people, I grew up enjoying campfires, not thinking about smoke.

That changed Jan. 2, 2006, when our neighbor in Newaygo, Michigan, installed an outdoor wood boiler downhill and 90 feet from our house.

We didn't know what the unit was, but the first day of operation, we experienced sore throats and headaches from smoke that drifted constantly, often in sheets, across our yard.

We could smell it in our house and couldn't get away from it. Being outside for minutes resulted in a smoke smell in our hair and on our clothes.

Research showed us the negative health impact we experienced from smoke is well documented and dangerous.

Our neighbor raised the stack higher, but he refused to talk when we showed smoke still going down into our yard, especially on low pressure days.

For a year, we worked with the city government, attended meetings, educated, received neighborhood support to ban these units.

Now an ordinance protects people from OWB's. Our healthy air will be back...we thought.

City officials assured us the ordinance applied to all, but in September, they said our neighbor's unit was "grandfathered." No rules for him.

We offered to pay our neighbor's heat bill, buy a different furnace. Anything to enjoy our yard again, not to feel sick while home.

No reply.

Our four little Michigan grandchildren can't visit us there October-April. The smokestack is 14 feet from where we used to sled in the backyard. Two of the children are susceptible to asthma.

Can't rake leaves, can't shovel snow. In smoke, your heart pounds too hard. You feel dizzy. No one seems to care. Since our house is uphill, and in the path of the prevailing wind, we receive much more smoke than our neighbor who owns the unit.

We're selling this future retirement house to avoid smoke and the illness it will cause. But who will want to buy it when they see a smoke stack, and how can we, in good faith, sell this home to people, knowing the health

impact of this excessive wood smoke?

People need to understand the harm of what breathing wood smoke does to them, to children and to neighbors.

Right now my husband and I live in Iowa. I am a retired teacher, and my husband runs the Iowa Health System. We will retire to Michigan in five years, but we won't be able to live in the house where we raised our children and which we have owned for 25 years. We have to leave this house because there are no laws to protect us from excessive wood smoke.

You would not want this situation to happen to anyone in Pennsylvania, no matter how much people want cheap heat. Geothermal is also a good alternative which doesn't hurt anyone.

Sincerely,  
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