

2802

February 3, 2010

Environmental Quality Board  
PO Box 8477  
Harrisburg PA 17105-8477

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing in regard to the pending legislation regarding outside wood stoves. Since our childhood, we can remember our families' primary source of heat being an outside stove. Now that we have our own home, we have also chose to heat with an outside wood stove. As a matter of fact, Christopher's grandfather is a dealer for Mahoning furnaces. We are quite familiar with the benefits of these stoves.

First, once past the initial stove purchase, the cost to heat one's home is significantly less than oil, gas, or electricity. Especially with the fluctuation in oil prices and the electric rate caps about to expire, heating with an outdoor furnace is becoming more attractive. In today's economy, everyone is looking for ways to save money. Heating with an outdoor stove is one such way. This is the first year that we actually purchased a load of wood instead of cutting our own wood. The tri-axle load of wood, which will do us all winter long, cost \$550. That is *significantly* less than heating our home with oil. When we do cut wood, we purchase wood permits from DCNR. As a result, we are providing a revenue source for the state.

Second, many stove users are in a rural environment. Our closest neighbor is ¼ mile away from our home. Furthermore, our house is situated on a hill above the surrounding homes. How is the smoke from our furnace affecting them? It is not. Since most owners of stoves are in rural environments, why do you feel that regulation is necessary. Many people are secluded from their neighbors and have very little impact on their immediate environment. In addition, all of our neighbors also heat their homes with outdoor stoves. If we have no problem with each other, why do you have a problem with us?

Third, outdoor stoves provide many ways to heat one's home. Our stove can be operated with wood, coal, or oil. In the event that the electricity is out, our stove will continue to run. If we relied solely on oil, gas, or electricity, we would freeze in the dead of winter. We are sure you are familiar with how cold a Pennsylvania winter can be. While you freeze with your stove, we will be nice and comfy warm in our home thanks to our outdoor stove.

Fourth, how is an outdoor stove any different than a stove that is operated indoors? There is still smoke whether it comes from a chimney or an outdoor stove pipe. We really do not see the difference. Yes, a chimney may be higher, but the end result is the same. There is still smoke in the air from a wood or coal stove.



1707  
RECEIVED

FEB - 5 2010

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Fifth, Danielle works for an insurance company. An outdoor stove is *much* safer than an indoor one. Outdoor stoves are cool to the touch and are installed easily. There are many errors and shortcuts taken when installing an indoor stove that greatly increase the chance of loss. As stated above, in today's economy, everyone is trying to save money. With a spike in insurance claim payments, insurance premiums will increase. Therefore, everyone will be paying higher insurance premiums. Is it worth that?

Sixth, the outdoor furnace industry provides many jobs for Pennsylvanians. From makers of the stoves to dealers to installers of the stoves, many people have gainful employment thanks to the outdoor stove industry. Would you like to see the unemployment rate in Pennsylvania climb even higher?

We sincerely hope that you reconsider your position of regulating outdoor stoves. We feel there are six good reasons listed above for why regulation is not a beneficial idea. We are sure that there are many more and hope that other users of outdoor furnaces voice their opinions so that you can see how many people rely on this heating source. We appreciate your time and consideration of our letter.

Sincerely,

  
Danielle Taylor

  
William Taylor

5093 Shavers Creek Rd  
Petersburg PA 16669