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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

RR4 Box 4371
Moscow, PA 18444
October 23, 2009

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OCT 27 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Environment Quality Board:

I am writing in regard to the proposed new strict regulations concerning outdoor wood-fired boilers. From my understanding, the state is proposing new regulations on outdoor wood-fired boilers that many taxpayers across the Commonwealth use to economically heat their homes. I am strongly opposed to this proposed regulation. I feel that it is an unnecessary extension of the Department of Environmental Protection's power and that it will put many taxpayers at a disadvantage.

Currently, local governments and municipalities have the authority to regulate these wood-fired boilers if necessary. I feel that this should remain the case as it allows individual communities to determine what is best for them. Additionally, I do not feel that the DEP nor the Commonwealth is empowered nor should be to dictate to taxpayers how they can heat their homes. The added burden on the DEP of enforcing such new, strict regulations would also put added expense on the Commonwealth and add a greater tax burden on the taxpayers.

Not only would the new regulations on wood-fired boilers be an over-extension of the government, but it would also put the taxpayers at a disadvantage. Burning wood in these boilers in an economical way for the taxpayers of this Commonwealth to heat their homes. This is especially key in this time of economic hardship and high unemployment. To remove this option could possibly push many families into poverty, particularly with the cold winter predicted for this year. In addition, wood is a renewable resource, and it lessens the taxpayers dependence on fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas.

In closing, I strongly oppose the proposed strict regulation by the Commonwealth on the use of wood-fired boilers. I ask that you not approve such regulations, and that the citizens be able to exercise their right to heat their homes as they please; the local governments can regulate these boilers if necessary. By disapproving of the proposed regulations, you will be working toward economic recovery in the Commonwealth and will assure that the taxpayers do not feel an undue burden.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Wascovich