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Chambers, Laura M.

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**From:** knicho@sasd.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 24, 2009 11:46 AM  
**To:** EP, RegComments  
**Subject:** Proposed Regulation for Outdoor Wood-fired Boilers

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION



Outdoor  
Wood-fired Boilers Op

Attached please find my opposition letter to the proposed regulation for Outdoor Wood-fired Boilers.

Thank you

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Dear Environmental Quality Board:

I have chosen to heat my home with an outdoor furnace for a number of good reasons:

- With the ever changing price of home heating oil, natural gas and LPG, heating with wood is an economical option – a furnace owner that heats with wood in an outdoor furnace can save thousands of dollars a year on home, farm and small business heating costs.
- Heating with wood is consistent with the independent practices of Americans from as far back as colonial times.
- Heating with an outdoor wood furnace eliminates the risks of fires and carbon monoxide poisoning associated with an indoor heating system because the appliance is located outside. Every year literally thousands of homes are damaged or destroyed by fires caused by indoor heating devices.
- Heating with wood results in no net increase in global warming gas emissions. Heating with oil, coal and natural gas is a significance source of global warming gas emissions.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed a regulation for “outdoor wood-fired boilers” that has the potential to impact my ability to continue utilizing my existing appliance. I am strongly opposed to:

- Excessive chimney height requirements for existing and new furnace installations that are not based upon science.
  - Excessive chimney height requirements are costly (parts and height determination), time consuming and may prevent a large number of owners from being able to comply.
- Seasonal prohibition between May 1 and September 30. I myself adhere to a seasonal ban, as I follow my borough’s ordinance of no burning from June 1 to September 30, however, a statewide season restriction for rural owners, people with their own wood lots, farming operations, greenhouse operations is unreasonable.
- Opacity requirements for residential sized appliances because opacity is a subjective visual observation.

While it is foreseeable that furnace owners creating verifiable nuisances need to increase their chimney to alleviate complaints, it is unreasonable for the Pa DEP to **retroactively** impose restrictions (with the exception of proper fuel use) on my existing outdoor wood furnace. My appliance was purchased, installed, and operated in good faith prior to the drafting of the regulation.

A major concern of mine is the proposed regulation of the stack height of existing outdoor wood-fired boilers to extend 2 feet above the highest peak of the highest residence located within 500 feet of the outdoor wood-fired boiler. For me that is an **apartment building**. If the regulations pass, there is absolutely no possible way for this to be done without destroying my \$12,000 furnace, which heats my home and my 1200 square foot detached garage, and that I am still paying for. I would like to add that I already comply with the ordinance set by my borough, which states that outdoor furnace must be 20 feet from the neighboring property line, a flue height of 15 feet from the top of the boiler, as well as a seasonal restriction.

If this regulation passes, and I am unable to comply, I would expect the DEP to reimburse furnace owners for their unusable appliance, as well as provide monetary compensation to install an appropriate heating source that meets their requirements.

I am opposed to the excessive and retroactive requirements of the proposed regulation. If passed as currently written, I believe that the regulation will adversely impact my rights and the rights of existing outdoor wood furnace owners that us these appliance in a responsible manner. I am supportive of a state law requiring existing furnace owners to have to comply with proper fuel use requirement and for regulations regarding new installations to be reasonable.

Sincerely,



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