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Chambers, Laura M.**RECEIVED**

From: Lacie J Wert [ljwert@tiu11.org]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 4:58 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Outdoor Woodburner

NOV 30 REC'DINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

My family and I recently purchased an outdoor wood furnace, which required us to get a substantial loan. After two months of using the furnace, we are very pleased with its ability to heat our home and are finally able to live comfortably during the cold winter months. There are many reasons that we chose to purchase an outdoor wood burner:

- 1) We used to heat our home with electric heat. With the increase in electric coming in 2010, we wanted to be sure that we could afford to continue heating our home in the future. Heating our house with wood seemed like a much more economical option, especially since we live on a large wooded lot. In fact, our wood burner is literally paying for itself, with the money we've been saving on electric. And, once it IS paid for, we will be saving thousands of dollars a year on home heating costs.
- 2) Heating with wood allows us to be more independent, as we don't need to rely on the electric companies in the event of a power outage. The use of wood for heat actually goes back as far as colonial times. It was a smart choice then, and is a smart choice now.
- 3) Having the furnace outside, rather than inside, eliminates the risks of a fire in our home and carbon monoxide poisoning. Each year, thousands of homes and LIVES are damaged and/or destroyed by fires caused by indoor heating units.
- 4) Using wood for heat actually is better for the environment. Heating with wood results in no net increase in global warming gas emissions. Heating with oil, coal and natural gas is a significant source of global warming gas emissions. (The electric heat that powered our home before originated from these latter sources of energy.)

The proposed regulation for "outdoor wood-fired boilers" has the potential to impact my family's ability to continue utilizing my existing furnace (which was recently purchased and is still being paid off). I am **STRONGLY** opposed to:

- Excessive chimney height requirements for EXISTING furnaces, especially if the decisions are not being based on scientific research. Extending the height of my chimney will be VERY costly (for height determination and parts), time consuming, and may prevent the use of my furnace.
- Seasonal prohibition between May 1 and Sept. 30. for rural owners, people (like me) with their own wood lots, farming operations, and greenhouse operations.
- 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.

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 use these appliances in a responsible manner. I am supportive of a state law requiring existing furnace owners to have to comply with proper fuel use requirements and for

regulations regarding new installations to be reasonable.

Sincerely,
Lacie Wert