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Tate, Michele

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**From:** Michelle Beitko [mbeitko@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 29, 2009 8:36 PM  
**To:** EP, RegComments  
**Subject:** Outdoor woodburner rights' infringement

RECEIVED

DEC 7 REC'D

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear EQB:

I purchased a Central Boiler outdoor wood burner in 2006 and use it exclusively to heat my house. It is my only source of heat and I have no back up system in place. I spent a lot of money and time getting the furnace and all the necessary infrastructure in place: I ran pex tubing all through my floors, upstairs and down, zone pumps, valves, etc. The high price of the system was worthwhile because years down the road, I would essentially be heating my house for free because not having to pay a gas bill for all those years the unit would have finally paid for itself. The system would only require a little bit of hard work in obtaining wood for the winter to operate and that's it.

At the time of my purchase, there was no legislation or guidelines in place for outdoor wood burners. To try and implement them now, and make them retroactive on top of that, is an outrage. If there are nuisance units that were purchased before the new guidelines the DEP is trying to implement, they need to be handled on a case by case basis. For myself and my family (a total of four of us bought units) who live in a very rural area, it is simply unfair to throw these guidelines our way. If our neighbors have no problem with our outdoor wood burners, why should the DEP?

Even more disturbing in the unrealistic guidelines they are trying to implement. "Extend two feet above the highest peak of a residence within 500 ft" is completely unrealistic. What if your neighbor lives on top of a hill? I would have never purchased a unit of this type, or paid the amount of money I had too, had I known the government was going to get involved and pull the stunt they are currently trying to implement. The retroactive aspect pertaining to this initiative is completely unfair and I would think illegal to boot. I want the DEP and EPA to know I have also contacted my legislature to inform him of this injustice they are trying to pull.

I would like to end with the main reason I purchased an outdoor woodburner. My wife and I both have severe allergies and the appeal of no forced air in our house really appealed to us. Since moving into our new house without forced air, only radiant heat through the floors, both of our allergies symptoms have reduced drastically. We no longer have to worry about all the allergens that constantly recycle throughout our house and aggravate our allergies. It cost us a lot of time and money to get this heating system in place, and the retroactive efforts taking place now by the DEP/EPA are unconstitutional and illegal. Hopefully, this ridiculous attempt by the state to again find ways to take our money will be thwarted and will only apply to new furnace buyers, and not those who purchased their units years ago.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Beitko  
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