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Tate, Michele

From: Brown, Shelly [sbrown@pasen.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 2:53 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Outdoor Wood Furnace regulation concerns

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION



Scan001.PDF (26
KB)

Please find attached a letter from my husband and I opposing the current recommended restrictions on the outdoor wood furnace. This has been a great source of heat for our home and family. It was not a cheap investment and it has helped us to save money, especially during these tough economic times. We burn wood and only wood in our burner. If the regulations are being caused due to folks burning items other than wood, the laws should reflect that not the excessive chimney height, seasonal restriction etc... This is ridiculous. Thank you for your time.

Shelly Brown
Executive Assistant
Office of Senator Joe Scarnati
717-787-7084 p
717-772-2755 f
www.senatorsarnati.com

-----Original Message-----

From: rm292-x7665-01@pasen.gov [mailto:rm292-x7665-01@pasen.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 9:51 AM
To: Brown, Shelly
Subject: Scan from a Xerox WorkCentre

Please open the attached document. It was scanned and sent to you using a Xerox WorkCentre.

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Environmental Quality Board
P. O. Box 8477
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Or

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express mail:
Rachel Carson State Office Building 16th Floor
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Email: RegComments@state.pa.us.

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

I have chosen to heat my home with an outdoor wood 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 – an 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 significant source of global warming gas emissions.

The proposed regulation for “outdoor wood-fired boilers” 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. A statewide seasonal 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.

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,

Kevin + Michelle Brown, 554 Suedberg Rd
Pine Grove PA 17963

Date: 12/2/09

