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**From:** Rex & Linda Messenger [messenger173@verizon.net]
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION**Sent:** Wednesday, December 02, 2009 4:54 PM**To:** EP, RegComments**Cc:** Paul & Gerri Wellington; csonney@pahousegop.com; jevans@pahousegop.com

Dear Environmental Quality Board:

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

- I am a partially disabled senior citizen who uses this appliance to support my income by helping to lower my ever increasing utility bills and therefore helping to pay my state, local, school and federal taxes. If this appliance could not be used my family and I would freeze and not have hot water.
- 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 American from as far back as colonial times.
- Heating with an indoor heating system 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 too:

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 being able to comply.

2) Seasonal prohibition between May 1 and September 30.

A statewide seasonal restriction for rural owners. people with their own wood lots, farming operations, greenhouse operation is unreasonable.

3) Opacity requirements for residential size appliances because opacity is a subjective visual observation.

While it is foreseeable that furnace owners creating verifiable nuisance need to increase their chimney to alleviate complaints, 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.

Our city of Corry has adopted its own ordinance #1408 concentrating on the exhaust or stack height which has eliminated complaints.

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 impacts my rights and the rights of existing outdoor wood furnace owners that use 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 requirements and for regulations regarding new installations to be reasonable.

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