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Florence A Mudie
171 Dartt Settlement Road
Wellsboro PA 16901

November 23, 2009

Subject: Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

Less than three years ago my husband and I installed an outdoor wood furnace to heat our home and water. The entire system cost us approximately \$7,000. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) proposed regulation for outdoor wood-fired boilers will adversely impact our ability to continue utilizing our existing appliance. If such regulations were in effect in 2007 we would not have purchased the furnace.

We burn nothing but clean wood, and are not a nuisance or hazard to anyone. Before purchasing our furnace we:

- Contacted Charleston Township to determine if there were any regulations pertaining to the installation or use of the appliance,
- Spoke with our insurance agent regarding coverage, and
- Talked to our immediate neighbors to obtain possible objections to the appliance.

We are a retired couple who are living on a fixed income. The \$7,000 investment was made to save us the constantly rising cost of natural gas. If these regulations are adopted as proposed we will have to spend several more thousand dollars to be in compliance. That is if the unsightly necessary changes would be within local regulations. Additionally, changes to the furnace will most likely reduce its efficiency.

Indoor wood burning furnaces, stove, and fireplaces will continue to be utilized without restrictions. While some homeowners burn all their household garbage, treated wood, and paper products in open burn barrels or large bonfires, we will not be allowed to use a professionally installed furnace. Additionally, the air pollution being created by the natural gas industry in this area appears to be a much greater public health hazard than emissions from residential wood-fired boilers.

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 on existing outdoor wood furnace. Our furnace 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. 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,


Florence Mudie

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