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2009 DEC 14 PM 4:22

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

1012 Harvey Road
Ligonier, PA 15658-2666
724-238-8646
December 3, 2009

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DEC - 7 2009

RE: Outdoor Wood Burner Regulations

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Environmental Quality Board
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

As residents of Pennsylvania, we would like to take this opportunity to share our concerns on the proposed PA rules for outdoor wood burners. We have been using an outdoor wood burner for our home heat and water heating purposes since the fall of 2006. The new regulations being discussed would cause a hardship to our family in multiple ways. Most important would be adjusting the height of our stack to the highest residence within 500 feet. Living in a rural area, the landscape is not flat and would make the height of our stack extremely high, expensive and complicated to install. The time frame limit of usage during the months of May to September would also cause my family an inconvenience and added expense since our wood burner is used to heat our homes hot water.

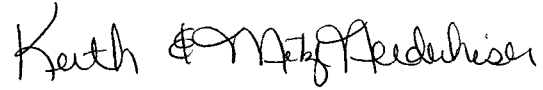
We feel that these regulations are too strict on families who are trying to find affordable ways to heat our homes and water. If an outdoor wood burning unit is installed and running to manufacturer's specifications for proper care and use, that should be enough. In the current economy with the cost of oil and electric power ever rising, it is a much better choice for us to use a wood for us to heat our home. Wood is a naturally renewable alternative energy source.

Allow us to share our personal story with you, so that you can understand that individuals who own wood burners are suffering from unjust publicity also. As I said, we have had an outdoor wood burner since the fall of 2006. Most of our neighbors, those closest to our home, have had no problem with our outdoor wood burner. There is one exception, that neighbor is Mr. Paul Laposky. (Mr. Laposky has expressed to others, including public officials, that he has a personal problem with us in general and this is his way of expressing it. Although it has nothing to do with our wood burner.) Mr. Laposky has filed numerous complaints about our wood burner with multiple departments including the local Ligonier Township Ordinance officers and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. In accordance with those complaints, multiple individuals from different departments have inspected our outdoor wood burner. All inspections have shown no violations of stack emissions. With those inspections and a hearing before the magistrate, we have been found not guilty on all charges. However, we feel that our situation is being unjustly used for the benefit of this individual's personal wants and desires. We have taken all of the necessary steps and extra effort to try to alleviate the situation, but to no avail. We have added additional stack height, changed fuel sources from wood to coal to a different wood source, but still Mr. Laposky is making complaints. There is nothing more we can do to correct this situation since we were not in violation to start with. There is just a point that the average citizens need to have their rights protected as well. We have right to heat our home and water within the states guidelines that are already set up. We have always had an open door policy, since this situation began. We would be happy to speak with any officials, show them the wood burner in operation, and have you spend time in/at our home watching it operate. We would like to extend that invitation to you as well. We would also be happy to provide any paperwork we may have that would help, such as police complaints, ordinance complaints, and the letter with the findings from the DEP office who investigated us.

December 4, 2009

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns and situation with you. We hope that you will consider not enacting these stringent regulations for outdoor wood burners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith & Mitzi Neiderhiser". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Keith and Mitzi Neiderhiser

cc: Department of Environmental Protection
Senator Donald White
Representative Mike Reese