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November 23, 2009

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Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Dear Environmental Quality Board;

We live on 13 acres in a rural area 6 miles East of Tunkhannock, PA., and are surrounded by 200 acres North, East, South and West with three houses approximately one quarter mile away and I understand DEP has designated rules for one size fits all?, in relation to outdoor furnaces.

I have chosen an outdoor furnace to heat my home because;

1. I am retired and am on a fixed income. Trying to keep up with the price of oil has been beyond our means.
2. This allows me to reduce the cost of heating my home in the winter months.
3. It is the safest way I have found to do this because the fire and dirt created is outside.
4. It has several health benefits.
 - a. The exercise I get preparing the wood is very beneficial.
 - b. Working outdoors is very beneficial.
5. Heating with wood has been around since early man learned to control fire.
6. Heating with wood has no net increase in global warming gas emissions.
7. Heating with gas, oil or coal is a significant source of global warming gas emissions

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has proposed a regulation for "outdoor wood-fired boilers" that has the ability to impact my ability to continue using my existing furnace. I am strongly opposed to:


- Excessive chimney height requirements for existing installations that are not based upon science.
- Seasonal prohibition between May 1st and September 30th. What rational is this based upon ? It is possible to have cold (with snow) weather early or late in the season. Also I know of some people that heat their water year round with wood.
- Opacity requirements for residential sized appliances because opacity is a subjective visual observation
- Placement of unit. We took into consideration:
 - daily use
 - Using in inclement weather
 - Which direction the prevailing winds blow
 - Plowing when it snows.
 - Storage of wood for convenience and safety

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 requesting that you act now to assist me to preserve my rights and the rights of existing outdoor wood furnace owners in the State of Pennsylvania by opposing 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.

Please act now to help preserve my rights to heat with wood in a responsible, economical and safe manner.

Sincerely,


Caroline D. Lackey

Mr. & Mrs Reynold L. Lackey

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION

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