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Robert S Mudie  
171 Dartt Settlement Road  
Wellsboro PA 16901

2009 DEC 14 PM 4: 07

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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NOV 30 2009

November 23, 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Subject: Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers

Dear Representative Matthew E. Baker,

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 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed a regulation for "outdoor wood-fired boilers" that 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. Additionally, 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 operation, or 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.

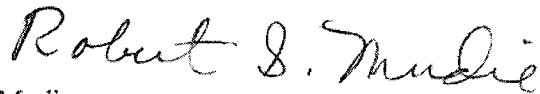
I am requesting that you act now to assist me to preserve the rights of existing outdoor

wood furnace owners in the State of Pennsylvania by opposing the excessive and retroactive requirement 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 submit comments to the EQB no later than January 4, 2010 in support of my position. Written comments should be submitted to: Environmental Quality Board, PO Box 8477, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477 (express mail: Rachel Carson State Office Building, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301). Comments submitted via email should be sent to [RegComments@state.pa.us](mailto:RegComments@state.pa.us). You should also attend the four scheduled public hearing to voice your concern (visit <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/date/vol39/39-42/1929.html> for details on locations, times and dates).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert S. Mudie".

Robert S Mudie