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Date: 12/09/2009

To: Department Environmental Protection  
Environment Quality Board

From: Christopher L. Lawrence

Re: New Rule for Residential Outdoor Boilers

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2009 DEC 17 PM 4:08

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Environment Quality Board,

I have been made aware that the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing new rules in regards to the operation of existing residential wood fire boilers. I am somewhat disturbed that the new rules will apply to me; who purchased this boiler about 5 years ago and installed it in good faith, to heat my home and family. When I purchased my boiler, I installed it in accordance to the laws of the time, local zoning requirements, and remaining mindful of my neighbors.

Most likely, these new rules are being enacted in an effort to appease a group who cannot get along with his or her neighbors. This group, have put enough pressure on his or her legislator to do something about it, rather than making the two parties work things out between them.

The sad thing is; if we were in colonial times or in a one of the early settlements, these individuals would not complain about or die from this because it was a way of life. Please understand that for me this is a way of life. We were not ever able to pay off our gas bills from year to year because of the cost. At times were forced to place the bill on the credit card just to keep the gas on. Not only have we been able to catch up the gas bill but pay the credit card off. This was without a doubt the best money I have ever spent.

As a township Supervisor in a very rural area in Southwestern Pennsylvania; we are from time to time faced with these individuals who because they cannot get along with the neighbor, come to the township supervisors to enact some ordinance just to fight the battle on their behalf rather then talking and working things out. Sometimes it is difficult to tell these persons NO. However, we as supervisors are mindful that the rules need to benefit the township and the people thereof. This thought must be applied anytime a rule or law is enacted. Anything short of this is a failure of the people rather than a win for the people.

This regulation of a chimney requirement of 2 feet above the roof peek within 500 feet is unrealistic. My boiler was the best and most efficient one could get at the time from Central Boiler. My boiler is not able to be fitted for more than four, 3 foot sections of 8 inch flue. The house I reside in is 32 feet from ground to peek. There are three additional homes within that 500 foot range and height and ground topography would have to be considered. If I qualify for the 150 foot group then there are two additional homes to consider. Either way my boiler will not be legal as it currently is

Those business people who use these boilers for Green Houses and Nurseries will not be able to comply with a seasonal prohibition. These prohibitions will greatly impact the bottom line and could drive some out of business.

This proposed Opacity requirement that was created for industry, is nothing more than a subjective visual observation of emission sources. This is not even a scientific fact but rather than an opinion. Many factors can make an opacity observation virtually impossible to conduct, even for certified observers.

Further, this idea of trying to close the barn door after the horses get out, has never worked and never will. No more can the DEP tell someone who has a septic system installed before the concept of perk tests, make them now perk test and decide what system they will need to install; can you tell me that I have to submit to the new scrutiny now being presented. Further I do not see the DEP going to the USX Edger Thompson Works and telling them to move he mill 150 feet from the property line. Although the DEP did stop issuing permits for Long Wall Mining the DEP could not stop the mines currently in operation and Penn DOT was forced to sit ready on Interstate 70 as the road kept shifting and sinking.

We should also be mindful that homes who heat with add on wood fire furnaces and coal furnaces will also have to adjust their systems as well. The only difference is my system is it is located outside and not inside. An 8 inch flue on a coal furnace or wood furnace has the potential to put off as much smoke as my 8 inch flue. Are you prepared to tell all home owners in this commonwealth that the chimneys on his or her home will need to be extended 2 feet above the nearest home roof top within 500 feet? I BET NOT!

I have been a resident of this commonwealth for all of my life and still reside on the family farm. We have always abided by the laws and the rules. If the proposed laws existed when I purchased my boiler, I would have followed the rules and the laws. I would have had the ability to decide if this was the way to go or not. But for you to change the rules after the fact is wrong.

However I am not an unreasonable man. If you go through with the proposed requirements then I will be agreeable to three options.

1. Grandfather all boilers installed prior to the proposed regulations
2. The DEP or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania forgo the expenses of upgrading my current system including if necessary replacement of the actual boiler for a more efficient one approved by the DEP.
3. Cut me a check in the amount of \$143,498.95 This is based on the following factors

a. Initial cost and instillation	\$7500.00
b. interest @ 7% over 5 years	\$1410.60
c. Gas bill budget of 550.00 conservatively over the next 20 years	\$132000.00
d. Electric bill savings of \$20 a month over 20 years	\$4800.00
e. Less 2270.65 for ¼ of the warranty life used of the expected 20 to 30 year life span subtracted from the installation cost and interest	\$2277.65

I will agree to shut down my boiler if option 3 is met for no less then the amount listed above.

Please be advised that these are the only three options I see as fair to me and the others who have chosen this as our way of life. I would be open to any other reasonable options which will reimburse, compensate, or permit without additional costs, me to cease or continue my operation.

However I will need to make it clear to all responsible parties that I would like to remain a good law abiding citizen and I am prepared to do everything to continue to do so. But make no mistake, I plan to fight this to my last full measure, and I am not alone in this. You Sir and/or Madam must be prepared to fight everyone who heats his or her home with wood or coal. Anything that just applies to the Outdoor Wood Boilers is nothing more than discrimination.

I am disappointed that there are no meetings close, where I can go and express my points in an open forum. Further it is sad that the government will try and pass laws without notifying the people it will affect. It is amazing that when the laws are being proposed the government cannot mail out notices, but when the laws are passed, they seem to know who it applies to, where they live and readily mails out the notices to enforce the action.

I will be most interested in hearing your response to this letter. I will be forwarding it along to my state legislatures as well. We will not be taking this matter lying down. You work for us and we pay the same and sometimes more taxes as those who are wining.

Respectfully Yours

Christopher L. Lawrence

2802

RECEIVED

**Tate, Michele**

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**From:** chris11633@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 09, 2009 7:20 PM  
**To:** EP, RegComments  
**Subject:** Outdoor Wood-fired Boiler

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Please find the attachment letter in response to the newly proposed rules