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Tate, Michele

From: Dave & Laura Mikula [makomik@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 1:34 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Proposed Regulation for Outdoor Wood-fired Boilers
Importance: High

2009 DEC 17 PM 4: 06

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

We have chosen to heat our home with an outdoor wood furnace for a number of good reasons:

- . With the ever changing price of home heating oil, natural gas and IPG, heating with wood is an economical option - a furnace that heats with wood in an outdoor furnace can save thousands of dollars a year on home 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.
- . Heating with wood results in no net increase in global warming gas emissions as compared to other sources.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed a regulation for "outdoor wood-fired boilers" that has the potential to impact my ability to continue to utilize my existing appliance. I am strongly opposed to:

- . Excessive chimney height requirements for existing furnaces, for which we would not be able to reasonably comply.
- . Seasonal prohibition between May 1 and September 30.
- . Opacity requirements for residential-sized appliances because opacity is a subjective visual observation. The smoke produced from an efficient burning outdoor wood boiler is less than most in-home wood-burning fireplace chimneys.
- . Newly imposed set-back rules from property lines for existing appliances which would completely eliminate our ability to use our furnace.

While I have no problem with the clean, proper fuel requirement for wood-fired appliances, I find the rest of the proposed restrictions on my **existing** outdoor wood furnace **completely unreasonable**. We purchased this boiler, installed it at significant cost, and operate it in good faith prior to the drafting of this regulation.

This proposed regulation would create a significant negative economic impact on my family.

Sincerely,

Dave Mikula
 1401 N. Mill Street

12/11/2009

North East, PA 16428