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From: Jim & Roz Yannaccone [jryanna@jlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2009 9:03 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Outdoor Wood-Fired Furnaces

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Environmental Quality Board Members,

I support some of the proposed regulations for outdoor furnaces. The proposed regulations that I support are:

- A person may not purchase, sell, offer for sale, distribute or install a boiler unless it meets Phase 2 standards for efficiency.
- Only clean wood, wood pellets made from clean wood and certain home heating oil, natural gas or propane fuels can be used in the boilers.

These units are supposedly for home heating purposes--they are not incinerators. However, I believe many people use them as incinerators. We know people who burn trash in their indoor wood stoves, so I have no doubt that there are people using their outdoor furnaces to burn trash. I burn wood in my home and I know what wood smoke smells like. The odor coming from some of the outdoor furnaces in my area is not coming from a wood-only fire.

I have mixed feelings about the other proposed regulations. I think local officials would have a better idea as to what might be appropriate setbacks and stack heights in their municipalities. On the other hand I think local officials are less likely to do anything about regulating outdoor furnaces. Would it be possible to have a standard that must be met. Something like: Smoke from an outdoor furnace must be above inhabited buildings as it passes across neighboring properties. I realize that this might sound rather vague but could provide local officials with some flexibility. For example, in my municipality the side setbacks are 10 feet. Officials could allow an outdoor furnace within 10 feet of the property line if it had a stack of sufficient height to get the smoke from the outdoor furnace above the neighbor's house.

Thank you,
James Yannaccone
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