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Tate, Michele

From:
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2009 1:05 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Wood-Fired Boilers Concerns

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Good Morning,

I am writing regarding the latest proposal for outdoor wood-fired boilers that the Pennsylvania DEP is considering. Please let me share with you, the impact that this proposal would have, should it be passed.

Several years ago, my children and I moved to Pennsylvania, in hopes of a safe and peaceful life. We loved our home, and the beauty of the area was breathtaking - we thought we were so lucky.

Just a few short months after we moved here, right after the Christmas holidays, we came home to a burning inferno. We had to face the fact that we had lost everything we owned, except that which was with us in the car that day. After a year of being homeless, we finally moved into what would now be, our home. We saved what we could, and invested in an outdoor wood boiler, in hopes that we could economically heat our home in a better way - not only for us, but for the environment as well. Again, our family did without for the longest time, so that we could afford this investment - yet the children never complained. We were just so grateful to be with heat, that the sacrifices were well worth it to us.

We were just sent notification that this impending bill would greatly impact our family, as well as a multitude of other families as well. Should this proposal be accepted, our family would, again, be without means of heat. We live in a very rural area, where our closest "neighbors" are two houses that are used as summer vacation homes for the weekends during that season, and one neighbor who lives a few acres across the pond from us. Other than that, our properties are jointly owned so that we could preserve the 100+ acres that surround our homes. Our outdoor boiler impacts no one but our family. Should these new stipulations go into effect, our family will be forced to survive the winter months, again, with minimal, or no heat. It is not that we have numerous heating options. In fact, our options are quite limited due to circumstances. Because we live in the woods, and to get to our house, you must first cross a wooden bridge that goes over a feeding stream to the local state park lake. Delivery trucks will not cross the bridge, in fear of falling into the water due to the weight of the trucks. In addition, I do not have the means to convert a housing heating system.

I realize that many families have it more difficult than we do; however, we truly believe that we are the most fortunate family there is, and we are extremely grateful for where we are. Although each of my children has a medical disability (from hearing deficits, to a rare internal bleeding malformation condition, to cerebral palsy), and have survived being threatened and assaulted in the public school, they continue to excel in their studies, and hold true to maintaining a positive attitude in life. I have been diagnosed with a brain tumor, and have not been able to secure a steady income, yet we know we are most fortunate.

My children and I truly appreciate the importance of family and friends, and count ourselves lucky and blessed, not only for those people in our lives, but for the love and support we share with each other. We may not have an income, and our means may be lean at best, but I will continue to provide the best I can for the three most wonderful children I could have ever hoped for.

Should you choose to accept the DEP's proposal, please remember, that your decision will impact

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so many of us, who are trying to do the right thing - not only for our own families, but for our communities and our world as well. I'm sure there are many other families who are probably in more serious situations than we are, and we will do our best to reach out to as many people as we can, but we need to know that you are considering our lives as well.

You may walk into your homes at the end of the day, and enjoy a beautifully tempered house, with wonderful furniture and carpeting, and decide to accept this proposal.

Please remember, there are those of us who don't have these things.

Our warmth comes from those around us.

Please reconsider the many aspects of this proposal and how it will impact so many lives.

With sincere regards,

Chat with Messenger straight from your Hotmail inbox. [Check it out](#)