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From: tdmpls@uplink.net
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2009 9:32 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Proposed DEP rulings-Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

December 11, 2009

Environmental Quality Board

Dear Members:

I am a resident of Paradise Township, Monroe County, Pa. I am writing concerning proposed rules that the Pa. DEP has drafted for outdoor wood-fired boilers. I purchased an outdoor boiler last October and have used it to heat my home and a portion of my garage since purchase. It represents an investment of more than \$14,000. I am pleased with the operation and savings it has afforded me since I put it into service.

I purchased and installed the unit to reduce my yearly heating bills, to escape dependence on importing oil from foreign countries and to utilize a renewable energy source that is available locally and throughout our Commonwealth and nation. Heating with wood has been a practice of Americans dating back to our nations inception. Heating with an outdoor boiler is much safer than utilizing an indoor fireplace or wood stove, as the risk of a chimney fire or dwelling fire is eliminated.

The proposed rules will impact not only myself but also many others that have made a considerable investment over the past several years. Section 123.14(d)(2) and 123.14(e)(1)(ii) set standards for heights of chimneys on existing boilers. Section 123.14(d)(2) establishes a minimum chimney height of 2 feet above the highest peak of the highest residence located within 150 feet of the outdoor wood-fired boiler for Phase 2 boilers and section 123.14(e)(1)(ii) establishes a minimum chimney height of 2 feet above the highest peak of the highest residence located within 500 feet of the outdoor wood-fired boiler. As you know our Commonwealth contains some very mountainous areas. I live in a mountainous region. If a person were forced to comply with either the 150-foot or 500-foot restriction, it could become extremely expensive, very unsightly and in some cases perhaps impractical and/or impossible to meet. To date, I have never received a complaint on my chimney height or smoke emanating from my unit. I am sure there are situations where smoke from these units may cause a problem to neighbors, but I have also seen smoke from indoor wood stoves and indoor fireplaces that appears it could be a cause for concern on neighboring properties. It seems to me that atmospheric conditions will determine if smoke rises as much as chimney heights. If this is so much a concern and being proposed as retroactive, why doesn't it include chimney heights on indoor wood stoves and fireplaces? If smoke from wood burning devices is such a negative, why wasn't the Pa. DEP looking at regulating chimney heights before outdoor wood-fired boilers gained popularity? If enacted, these proposed regulations will not only affect those who have already made an investment, but also the ability for industries that manufacture these units to market them.

I am very concerned that government once again is trying to control the rights and liberties of citizens and private enterprise. Thank you for taking time to read my letter and hear my concerns. Merry Christmas to all of you and your families.

Sincerely,

Terry Martin
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12/11/2009

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