

December 8, 2009

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Dear Environmental Quality Board,

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATOR  
REVIEW COMMISSION

- With the ever changing prices of home heating oil, natural gas, and LPG, heating with wood is an economical option. Heating with an outdoor wood furnace, I can save about two thousand dollars per year on heating costs.
- Heating with wood in the area in which I live is a very common practice.
- As a fireman, I know the value of being able to move the fire, carbon monoxide, and large amounts of combustible material outside, thus removing a significant risk of in home fires that cost thousands of dollars in damage, not to mention lives lost.
- Heating with wood results in no net increase in global warming gas emissions. Heating with oil, coal, and natural gas is a significant source of global warming gas emissions.

The proposed regulation for outdoor wood-fired boilers would impact my ability to utilize my outdoor wood-fired boiler. I am strongly opposed to:

- Excessive chimney height requirements for existing and new furnace installations are not based upon science.
  - Excessive chimney height requirements are costly and (parts and determination), time consuming and may prevent myself and others from being able to comply with the regulation.
- Seasonal prohibition between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>. A state wide seasonal restriction for rural owners, people with their own wood lots, farming operations, and greenhouse operation is unreasonable.
- Opacity requirements for residential sized appliances because it is a subjective visual observation.

While it is foreseeable that furnace owners creating a verifiable nuisance need to increase their chimney height to alleviate complaints, it is unreasonable for the Pa DEP to retroactively impose restrictions on my use of my outdoor wood furnace. My appliance was purchased, installed, and operated in good faith prior to the drafting of the regulation.

I am opposed to the excessive and retroactive requirements of the proposed regulation. If passed as currently written, I believe that the regulation will adversely impact my rights and the rights of existing outdoor wood-fired boiler owners who operate their appliances in a responsible manner.

I know different municipalities around our area have made rules regarding the use of outdoor furnaces in populated areas which I think is reasonable and the right way to handle the situation. With all due respect, I feel that is the right way to handle the situation, not for the DEP to hand down new and retroactive laws regarding the use of outdoor wood-fired boilers. If you have any question or comments please feel free to contact me at the address or number below.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

*Chris Bourne*  
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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD