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Environmental Quality Board
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, Pa 17105-8477

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

15 Dec 2009

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Dear Environmental Quality Board,

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Last year I was faced with paying \$4.44 a gallon for my fuel oil and at that time I bought a Central Boiler outdoor wood stove. I was not going to allow OPEC to continue using my dollars to fund their anti American activities. I own two Toyota Prius Hybrid cars because of the same thinking. I want to use as little fuel as possible as it is good for the environment and our nation's economy. I recycle all my plastic bottles and cans via the Albany Township Recycling Program along with card board boxes.

I own 11 acres of land and I used my own trees to fuel my outdoor wood stove. I learned that Central Boiler made an E-Classic 2300 outdoor wood gasification furnace which cost an extra \$5,000.00 but it complied with the 2010 EPA guide lines for low smoke emissions. I canceled my original order and upgraded to the cleaner burning model because I care about keeping the environment as clean as possible. My total expenses for the installation came to over \$15,000.00 which I had hoped to recover by using wood, a renewable self sustaining resource, that does not harm the environment like fuel oil does.

Your rule of 150 foot set back from property lines makes it impossible for me to use my stove. I also use my Phase 2 wood boiler stove all year round to provide my family with domestic hot water for baths and washing cloths. To prevent my family from using hot water during May through September seems to be cruel and inhuman punishment. This makes no sense and would cause users to have to use electricity, which is going to be very expensive starting next year or to use fuel oil, which pollutes the air.

The excessive chimney height requirements make no sense. The chimney should not have to be any higher than the existing chimney of the house being fed by the wood boiler stove. They are serving the same purpose. The whole purpose of a chimney is to get smoke above the roof of the house so that air currents can carry it away. If the chimney is below the top of the house it will cause improper currents which could cause smoke to not dissipate properly. To be higher than a building 500 feet away is not reasonable. The chimney of the house being fed by the stove does not have to comply with this kind of requirement. If the building is on the side of a steep hill the stove chimney could be required to be over 100 feet high possibly.

My plumber who has installed over 100 of these stoves complied with all guidelines that were in effect at the time of the installation. For you to make my stove impossible to use by your new rule seems to be unfair and not in the best interest of America's effort to reduce our dependence on OPEC oil while reducing air pollution. I am 68 years old and living on Social Security. I could really use your help in keeping my wood stove usable to me so that I can recover the large investment I have made to improve our air quality.

These Phase 2 wood boiler stoves are good for our environment and you should be looking at how to encourage their use, not how to make them impossible to use. They are well engineered to minimize emissions. They are much cleaner than a fireplace for heating. Please permit existing units to be Grand Fathered so that the owners who bought them in good faith and had them installed by licensed plumbers can continue to help keep our environment clean. We are good citizens trying to do the right thing for our environment. We are not polluters that need to be punished or legislated out of existence. Help us please.

Maurice L. Connor
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