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December 15, 2009

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RE: Proposed outdoor wood burner regulations.

DEC 21 2009

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Sir,

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

In the last 12 years I have used my outdoor wood burner to heat the house on my farm. The burner has allowed me to avoid buying 50,000 gallons of foreign oil. At a time when we are at war in that part of the world and oil profits help fund our enemies, I consider using my outdoor wood burner to be a very patriotic activity.

Also, the net income on my farm is around \$20,000.00 per year. We pay \$10,000.00 in Real Estate taxes to our Township, County, and School District. This amount is about equal to the savings generated from using my outdoor wood burner. Forced to quit using our own source of energy by DEP over regulation will definitely result in the sale of our farm. As the last vegetable farm in our township this would be a devastating loss to the local residents who value the fresh produce we provide.

The proposed DEP regulations are incredibly anti rural and anti farmer! They do not propose to ban city residents use of wood stoves or fireplaces. Nor do they propose to stop the Nature Conservatory from burning entire mountain tops to artificially maintain the supposedly endangered scrub oak on these mountains.

At a time when we still teeter on the edge of a depression, DEP proposes to shut down an entire industry, including American manufacturers of these outdoor wood burners and the loggers who provide the wood itself. Because of depressed building lumber prices, most loggers I know are surviving only through firewood sales. If they lose this source of income they will surely join the ranks of the unemployed and their equipment and possibly their homes will be repossessed.

Please stop DEP from implementing these regulations.

Sincerely,


Jim Ritter, owner

Ritter's Farm
1459 Mount Cobb Rd Jefferson Twsp., PA 18436

Environmental Quality Board
P. O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Or

express mail:
Rachel Carson State Office Building 16th Floor
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301

Or

Email: RegComments@state.pa.us.

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

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

- With the ever changing price of home heating oil, natural gas and LPG, heating with wood is an economical option – an owner that heats with wood in an outdoor furnace can save thousands of dollars a year on home, farm and small business heating costs.
- Heating with wood is consistent with the independent practices of Americans from as far back as colonial times.
- Heating with an outdoor wood furnace eliminates the risks of fires and carbon monoxide poisoning associated with an indoor heating system because the appliance is located outside. Every year literally thousands of homes are damaged or destroyed by fires caused by indoor heating devices.
- 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.

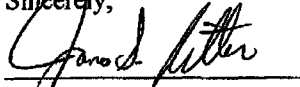
The proposed regulation for “outdoor wood-fired boilers” has the potential to impact my ability to continue utilizing my existing appliance. I am strongly opposed to:

- Excessive chimney height requirements for existing and new furnace installations that are not based upon science.
 - Excessive chimney height requirements are costly (parts and height determination), time consuming and may prevent a large number of owners from being able to comply.
- Seasonal prohibition between May 1 and September 30. A statewide seasonal restriction for rural owners, people with their own wood lots, farming operations, greenhouse operations is unreasonable.
- Opacity requirements for residential sized appliances because opacity is a subjective visual observation.

While it is foreseeable that furnace owners creating verifiable nuisances need to increase their chimney to alleviate complaints, it is unreasonable for the Pa DEP to retroactively impose restrictions (with the exception of proper fuel use) on my existing 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 furnace owners that use these appliances in a responsible manner. I am supportive of a state law requiring existing furnace owners to have to comply with proper fuel use requirements and for regulations regarding new installations to be reasonable.

Sincerely,



Date: 12/15/09

RITERS FARM MARKET
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