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15 December, 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

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

To Whom it may concern:

In regards to your proposed regulations concerning "outdoor wood-fired furnaces, I would like to express my opinion on your proposal.

I purchased a Heatmor stove in 2006 before I retired so that I could retain my home and not have to pay high heating costs for oil. The year after, I paid \$4.89 cents per gallon for half and half mixed heating oil. In December, January, and February, I would use over a tank of oil which gets very expensive when on social security.

I only burn mine from about the middle of October to the middle of April. During this time no one has their windows open, due to the temperature, so no one is affected by the stove. I live 350 feet from my closest neighbor and most of them burn some sort of wood, either in a stove, or fireplace for a second heat source.

Your proposed regulations concerning distance and chimney height is ridiculous. My stove height is 7 foot and I have it on a 2 foot pad. With my 8 foot flue, the maximum suggested by the manufacture, the total height is 17 foot from the ground. Now my neighbors house is a 2 1/2 story and if I had to extend my chimney so that it would be at least 2 feet above the peak of their home, my chimney on this stove would be have to be 34 feet and not 17 feet. Since these are free standing stoves, I would have to use guy wires to stabilize the chimney, be unable to clean the chimney which would create a major creosote problem, and be dangerous in a hard wind storm if it should be blown down.

Whom ever came up with this proposal must not have anything constructive to do, feels guilty because he is being paid to do nothing, knows very little about wood burners, never gets out of the city to see how we live in the country, wants to restrict outdoor stoves because there are so few that use them and consequently not many complaints, later can go after the inside wood stoves and fireplaces, and finally ban barbecues and campfires as dangerous to the atmosphere and ones health.

With all the gas drilling going on in Pa., you would think you folks had enough "worth while work" to keep you occupied and away from such minute and petty regulations. However, the only regulation I could agree with would be restricting outdoor stoves, "by the local municipalities" not the state, from May to October since their main purpose is to save on heat costs, not hot water.

Sincerely,

William L. Emick

William L. Emick
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ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY
TECHNICAL DIVISION

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