

December 9, 2009

Dear Rachel Carson,

2802

We have wooded land on our property and only cut and use wood that is not healthy or is no longer growing. As we have been taking the wood we use for our outside wood burner we have seen that young and healthy trees are starting to take their place. It is great to see that. In our case we have a free wood supply from our land to more than last our lifetime, as long as we are healthy enough to collect, prepare, stack and load the wood burner.

We are on a fixed income and it took us a long time to be able to purchase an outside wood burner. If we didn't have the wood burner we wouldn't be able to have heat and hot water in at least the wintertime. If we needed to buy the oil to heat our home in the winter we would probably need assistance or revert to having a wood stove in our home and not being able to use rooms in our house because an inside wood burner does not heat the whole house. In doing that we would once again put ourselves at risk of death because of a fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.

We have never heard of a home fire caused by an outside wood burner, but as the weather gets colder we will hear everyday of house fires and deaths of people of all ages due to their means of trying to keep warm by using fireplaces, indoor wood stoves, kerosene heaters, ovens, etc.

We do agree there should be some regulation of the wood burners especially in highly populated and confined places, but to make people like us living in the country and having our own resources to use an outside wood stove and not be permitted to use it because of regulations that would be put in place after we have had the stove for several years is not helping people like us at all.

Our home was built in the 1960's and we purchased an outdoor wood burner several years ago and placed it behind our house. Our wood burner is not located 150 feet from the property line, but a field does separate our house and our neighbor's house, which is over 1,000 feet from our home. So therefore it shouldn't be a problem. But if the resolution were to pass as is stated we could no longer use the wood burner because of the 150 feet ruling.

These are hard times for some of us and we are trying to be responsible and independent and not rely on help from the government if we don't desperately need to. Please consider our needs as well as those of others. If you pass the rules you intend to then people like us will be forced to either go without heat and hot water in our homes or go back to putting our lives in danger.

Sincerely,

Earnest + Margaret Christman

Earnest and Margaret Christman
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