

December 7, 2009

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to voice our opinion on the Outdoor Wood Burning Ban.

We own our own outside wood burning stove...we heat our house, our work shop, and our hot water with our stove. It provides us with many uses. We could not afford to heat these things if we had to do without our stove.

We burn wood, from our own woods...we clean up the dead and downed trees, tree tops, dead limbs, and trees that the gas companies have cut down and ripped out.

To put up a chimney 50 feet in height...have you thought about this????

First of all...how is this chimney to be held up? With Guy wires or leave self-standing? We have strong winds around this part of the country.

Second, how are we to clean this chimney being that it will be 50 feet high?? Chimney fires occur when the soot and creosote are not properly cleaned.

Third, our Fire Insurance will go up because of the fire hazards that will occur...is this Agency going to help us pay higher premiums?

Another thought...the Legislature has de-regulated the gas and electric companies, so that our utilities are going to increase enormously...how can we afford to keep warm in the Northeast winters? Think about the elderly whom depend on wood stoves to heat their houses, so that they can afford to buy food and medicine. What will happen to them?? Is the Agency going to help them pay their utility bills??

What about the people that have outside stoves that use coal instead of wood...will they still be allowed to use their stoves??

Also, many people in this area depend on cutting and selling wood to supplement their incomes. This is an area already hardhit by the recession, and these people need this income to survive, not only the winters, but day-to-day living, to eat, pay bills, and just plain live.

I hope that someday you will leave your CITY OFFICES and come back to the Rural Areas that you represent, and take a good long drive around on all of the back roads to remember the people that put their trust in you to do right by them. Pennsylvania is still RURAL. We ALL need to survive these trying times that we are in, and banning outdoor wood stoves is NOT a way to survive....we don't all live in downtown "Big City".

We hope that we can count on you to help Rural Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

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