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DEC 18 2009

J. Dennis and Kathy S. Grube
7506 Mason Dixon Highway
Meyersdale, PA 15552
814-634-5118
December 12, 2009
Re: Proposed OWB regulations

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

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

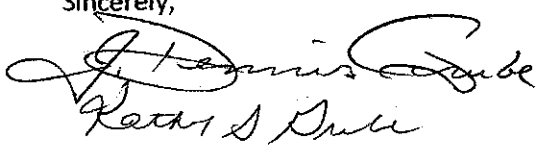
Dear Environmental Quality Board,

Please allow us the opportunity to abbreviate the accompanying three page letter of experience and findings with respect to our outdoor multifuel boiler. Our boiler was manufactured in Pennsylvania with grates to burn wood and coal. We have heated our house for over 25 years with these two products, some acquired from downed trees in our 10 acre woodlot and some purchased from hardworking miners and loggers in PA. To declare this outside boiler illegal (it doesn't fit proposed setback and stack height limits) will result in our having to move our solid fuel heat back indoors, resulting in more dirt in the house, more emissions closer to our one neighbor, and less safety for our family. Blanket rulemaking, as proposed, cannot work in our widely diverse countryside. Let us make the following brief points, expanded upon in our enclosed letter.

- 1) PA residents are still at work to manufacture and provide fuel for our boiler; no overseas oil heat needed.
- 2) No matter what approval, UL or other, outdoor heaters are SAFER than any indoor wood and coal fired appliances. Our insurance agent and local fire departments concur.
- 3) Setbacks and chimney heights are exorbitant and discriminatory. Many folks burn wood and coal from inside their homes with no setback limits and chimney height restrictions. Our house chimney is only 20' from our neighbor's house...our outdoor boiler is over 90' away and downwind. Another upwind neighbor is 400' away, upwind, and uphill...We would need in excess of a 50' chimney to comply, while moving the heat back indoors would use the existing 18' tall chimney.
- 4) Smoke is more of a function of wind direction, barometric pressure, and thermal inversions. During colder months all of the above minimize smoking; we only ever had one complaint from our nearest neighbor when the boiler was used during the summer for domestic hot water. We quit using it from May through September and have had no complaints.
- 5) Energy use and efficiency is never forgotten when WE are responsible to supply our own heat. A twelve month gas budget does not call energy savings to mind more than putting wood or coal on our fire everyday. Self sufficiency is to be commended in this age of entitlements; we would challenge the EQB to find anyone using an outdoor boiler who accepts any taxpayer funded energy assistance. Please be thankful for saved energy dollars which can be spent on other PA. products in these dire economic times.
- 6) Our current outdoor boiler provides heat for a small machine shop in addition to our home; we provide the winter heat included in the monthly rental. If this small business owner is forced to install his own oil heat, he has said he will close up shop; He won't be able to afford the heat. Job loss will include one fulltime and one part-time worker. We are always searching for more efficiency; when new more efficient solid fuel boilers become available, we will update as we have with vehicles that have aged.

Thank you for your consideration. Please read the full details of our view and experience thoroughly. We believe that requiring a new efficiency standard moving forward is appropriate. We also believe that any property setbacks and chimney restrictions should be handled on a local permitting basis. Winter in our hills cannot be imagined from either end of this wildly varied state. Please reconsider this proposal, so harmful to many PA residents.

Sincerely,



J. Dennis and Kathy S. Grube