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Title: Member

Organization: Clean Air Rights for Everyone of NY

County: Rensselaer

My comments are in regard to the increasing use of Wood-Fired Boilers, commonly known as Outdoor Wood Boilers (OWBs) and their cousins, Indoor Wood Boilers. Please refer to the NYSERDA Spatial Modeling and Monitoring of Residential Woodsmoke Across a Non-Urban Upstate New York Region Final Report 10-02 February 2010 I have not personally been exposed to these archaic appliances, but I have seen them and smelled them when driving. I have seen roads smothered in their smoke. I have a number of friends who live in close proximity to them. I have one friend who was able to get a neighbors unit shut down by DEC, but only after years of exposure to the smoke. Within six months, the same neighbor installed an indoor wood boiler and the nightmare resumed and continues to this day. I have read countless letters from people in NYS who are desperate for relief from the smoke of these units. Each of their lives has been turned upside down by the onslaught of heavy, acrid smoke that they are powerless to stop. OWBs emit almost four times more PM2.5 air pollution than conventional wood stoves, 12 times more than EPA-certified wood stoves, 1000 times more than oil furnaces, and 1800 times more than natural gas furnaces. Please read the quoted passage again. The owners of these devices are adamant about their right to burn wood in these units, regardless of the effect on their

Comment:

powerless to stop. OWBs emit almost four times more PM2.5 air pollution than conventional wood stoves, 12 times more than EPA-certified wood stoves, 1000 times more than oil furnaces, and 1800 times more than natural gas furnaces. Please read the quoted passage again. The owners of these devices are adamant about their right to burn wood in these units, regardless of the effect on their neighbors. They often cite the low cost (questionable) in comparison to more common heat sources. Their defenders say that individual localities should be the only regulators of the units. None of these arguments hold up against the overriding evidence that wood burning emits significant quantities of known health damaging pollutants, including fine particulate matter (PM2.5), carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and a number of known carcinogens, including benzene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. The solution: All manufactured wood burning residential units should be subjected to the same emission standards at the time of manufacture as EPA-certified wood stoves. In addition to greatly increasing the overall efficiency of wood burning units and the decrease in pollutants, when held to this standard there is no need for expensive time-consuming monitoring of the emissions. Keep it simple.