

REC'D JUN 09 2009

112 Michelle Court
Missoula, MT 59803-2324
June 8, 2009

Air Comments
Air Pollution Control Board
Missoula City-County Health Dept.
301 W. Alder St.
Missoula, MT 59802

Dear Board:

This is to offer my comments on proposed revisions to Missoula area air quality regulations.

For the last 25 years at my present address I have been a regular user of my wood-fired stove for residential heating purposes during the winter months. I would estimate I burn at least one stove load of firewood at least 75% of those days when restrictions are not in place. I do shut down completely when restrictions are in place and then rely entirely on my gas-fired furnace. In recent winter heating seasons I use about 1.5 standard cords of completely air-dried firewood, which I gathered earlier on nearby National Forest lands.

I purchased and installed my woodstove in 1984. At that time it was considered as super-efficient and not then subject to the air quality restrictions then in place. It is a Kent brand, made in New Zealand and features an interior plenum above the firebox which reburns the smoke gasses and particles from the combustion process below, resulting in little or no visible emissions once the interior plenum is fully heated.

I strongly prefer wood as a heat source because it is renewable, unlike oil or the natural gas I must use in my furnace. I also prefer firewood to pellets, chips, or other processed wood. In the past, pellet supplies have been unreliable, expensive, and less convenient than previously cut firewood.

I strongly urge the board to continue to allow firewood as a residential heat source. If there were some tax deduction or some other financial incentive, I would be willing to replace my existing woodstove with a more efficient model in order to continue firewood use.

I hope to attend your public listening session scheduled for 7:00 PM Thursday June 18 at the UM University Center.

Sincerely,



Edward G. Heilman