

From: Larry Weinberger [lweinberger@blackfoot.net]
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2009 4:39 PM
To: Mamie Colburn
Cc: Benjamin Schmidt
Subject: RE: Proposed New Woodstove Regulations

Ms. Colburn,

I appreciate your prompt response, as this is a very important matter to me and to everyone I talk to. However, I strongly disagree with your opinions.

Definition 8 in the draft regulations states:

- “New solid fuel burning device” means any solid fuel burning device installed, manufactured, or offered for sale after July 1, 1986 inside the Missoula Air Stagnation Zone or after xx-xx-xxxx (January 1, 2010) outside the Missoula Air Stagnation Zone in Missoula County.

If I sell my home, I am, in effect, offering to sell my woodstove. By that definition, my woodstove would be reclassified as a “new solid fuel burning device” when I sell my home. From that point on all of the proposed regulations for “new installations” would apply to the “existing” woodstove. That means I, or the buyer, would be forced to apply for a permit, possibly be denied a permit, and possibly be forced to remove, disable, or replace the existing stove. So your assertion that “the draft regulations do not propose removal of any current woodstoves” is, at best, inaccurate. Or perhaps it’s an attempt by the authors of the draft to mislead us into thinking that we are “grandfathered” in. The bottom line is: Reclassifying my existing stove as new when I sell the home costs me money: permits, loss of the stove, purchase of a replacement.

Regarding permits: I see nothing in the proposed regulations that mentions costs. How much will a permit cost? \$5? \$5000? Is it a one-time cost, or an annual fee? These regulations, if enacted, would give you the power to charge ridiculous amounts for permits, or just flat out deny permit requests. In short order, woodstoves, even the ones that are currently installed, would be unaffordable, or illegal.

Your second point, about the infrequent times that wood burning would be prohibited, makes no sense. Is there a problem or not? If it’s “perhaps not every winter or maybe even only a couple of days any given winter”, then what you’re telling me is that there isn’t a problem to begin with. You can’t have it both ways.

Where are the particulate levels going to be measured? Are you going to take measurements in the City of Missoula then tell me I can’t burn my stove in Potomac? The fact is, the weather in this region of the country ALWAYS moves from west to east. There is nothing I can do in Potomac that will affect the air quality in the City of Missoula. It just simply can’t happen; the laws of physics won’t allow it.

Here’s the real point of my letter. You have a problem in the City of Missoula, and that’s where you need to deal with it. If you want to improve the quality of air in the City of Missoula, manage the construction and growth. You don’t seem to have any problem with cramming more people in the city. And more people, means more cars. And I’ll assure you that the exhaust from vehicles is far more injurious to your health than all of the woodstoves in Missoula County.

Regards,

Larry Weinberger