

# Broome County Environmental Management Council

Barbara J. Fiala, Broome County Executive • Stacy Merola, Director



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May 20, 2008

Senator Thomas W. Libous  
NYS Senate, 52nd District  
1607 State Office Building,  
44 Hawley St.  
Binghamton, NY 13901

Assemblywoman Donna A Lupardo  
NYS Assembly, 126th District  
1704 State Office Building, 44 Hawley St.  
Binghamton, NY 13901

Assemblyman Clifford W. Crouch  
NYS Assembly, 107th District  
1 Kattelville Rd., Suite 1  
Binghamton, NY 13901

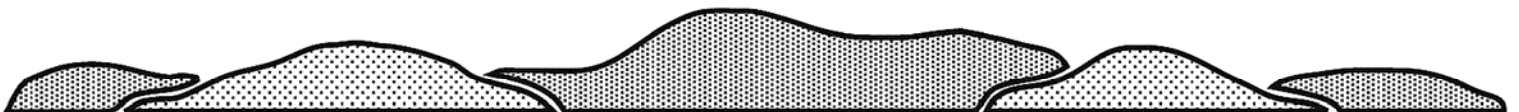
Assemblyman Gary D. Finch  
NYS Assembly, 123rd District  
69 South St.  
Auburn, NY 13021

**RE: Advisory Resolution and White Paper Calling for Support of Comprehensive Wood Burner Installation and Performance Standards**

Dear NYS Legislators:

The Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC), a citizen's environmental advisory group to County government, adopted the attached resolution and white paper at their general meeting May 1, 2008. The EMC respectfully requests your legislative support for regulations and environmental standards for all wood burning devices as a necessary step to safeguard New York's air quality and the health of its citizens.

Once you review the attached resolution and white paper, we hope that you recognize that there is a clear danger associated with increased wood burning. We understand that you are already aware of the on-going concerns and frustrations associated with the growing utilization of Outdoor Wood Boilers (OWB). The lack of regulatory oversight with these products and the associated scientific and technological complexities of this problem have created an issue that is well outside the knowledge base of municipal officials statewide. Guidance from federal and state level agencies, where the pertinent scientific skills reside, is sorely needed to address not only the existing problems, but also to proactively manage wood burning technology for the future, so that this energy source can be an environmentally responsible, safe and affordable domestic commodity for our citizens.



We trust that you understand the need for more stringent and comprehensive wood burner regulations for any wood burning device, particularly since current federal regulation addresses only indoor woodstoves. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's 2008 Regulatory Agenda lists 6 NYCRR 247, a proposed regulation that would specifically establish Outdoor Wood Boiler setback criteria, stack height criteria and emission standards. This provides an opportunity to proactively manage and promote environmentally responsible wood (and other bio-fuel) burning technologies. We ask that you use your leadership in the NYS Legislature to ensure that the content of regulations, such as 6 NYCRR Part 247, include emissions standards and siting requirements for all wood burning devices that sufficiently protect air quality and the health of New York's citizens.

We look forward to your actions in this regard and thank you for your ongoing efforts to protect air quality and human health in New York. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you.

Yours Sincerely,

(Electronically signed)

André G. LaClair  
EMC Chairperson

Enclosures

AGL

cc: Richard N. Gottfried, Chair, NYS Assembly Health Committee  
Robert K. Sweeney, Chair, NYS Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation  
Jared Snyder, NYSDEC Asst. Commissioner for Air Resources, Climate Change and Energy  
John Barnes, NYSDEC Division of Air Resources  
Bob Waterfall, NYSDEC Division of Air Resources  
Judith Schreiber, NYS Attorney General Office  
Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, New York  
Sen. Senator Charles E. Schumer, New York  
Rep. Maurice D. Hinchey, 22<sup>nd</sup> District  
Rep. Michael A. Arcuri, 24<sup>th</sup> District  
Walter Mugdan, EPA Region 2 Divisions of Environmental Planning and Protection  
Henry Falk, CDC Dir. of Coordinating Center for Envi. Health and Injury Prevention  
Samuel H. Wilson, NIEHS Acting Director  
Hon. Barbara J. Fiala, Broome County Executive  
Eric Denk, BC Legislative Clerk  
Ron Keibel, BC EMC Legislative Rep  
Timothy Cleary, BC EMC Legislative Rep  
Rita Petkash, BC Planning Commissioner  
Robert Denz, BC Director of Environmental Health  
Karen Ciatyk, BC EMC NRC Chair  
NYS Association of Conservation Commissions  
NYS Association of Environmental Management Councils  
Kevin Bowman  
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