

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 21, 2014

Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I am writing to express concerns regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently proposed rules updating the 1988 standards for new Residential Wood Heaters and establishing for the first time standards for New Residential Hydronic Heaters and Forced-Air Furnaces, as well as New Residential Masonry Heaters.

First, I am grateful that the rules will not apply to existing wood burning stoves that are present in homes across my state of Missouri. I would oppose any rule that included such overreach. Burning wood for heat is a common practice in Missouri and across our country and any rules that unreasonably encroach on such practice or that places undue costly burdens on Missourians would be unacceptable.

Protecting human health by minimizing fine particulate matter and other hazardous air pollutants from wood stoves and heaters is a legitimate goal and can be achieved when pursued in a balanced, responsible manner, as it was in the past through both public and private voluntary programs such as the Wood Stove Changeout and EPA's own BurnWise program. However, for such programs to be *fully* successful, consumers must have access to newer wood stoves and heaters that are affordable, and updated standards must be reasonable and technologically achievable.

If the costs of new stoves are unnecessarily increased, because standards are set too high or require technologies that are too advanced, consumers will not choose to replace their older, dirtier models with newer, cleaner options. Further, consumers needing to replace older models or installing models in new construction could be prevented from selecting this form of heating. New standards that overreach would also particularly negatively impact small independent manufacturers who do not have the financial resources to quickly redesign their products or manufacturing processes, meaning that not only could access to affordable home wood burning heating units be impacted for Missourians, but small manufacturing businesses and the jobs they support in this industry could be at risk.

If new emission standards set under the proposed EPA rule are unattainable for the sector at large or implemented too quickly for manufacturers to adjust, I fear the net benefits of these proposed rules will not materialize and that everyday Missourians will be harmed. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to work with manufacturers to craft a rule that is achievable, affordable, and benefits the millions of Americans who use wood stoves and heaters as a primary or supplementary source of heat.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Claire McCaskill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" starting with a large loop and the last name "McCaskill" ending with a double loop.

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator