

**Tacoma-Pierce County Nonattainment Area**  
**Public Input on Draft Pollution-Reducing Strategies**  
**All Public Input**  
**December 27, 2011**

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency solicited public input on the draft pollution reducing strategies under consideration by the Tacoma-Pierce County Clean Air Task Force during October and November 2011 in a variety of ways. Public input was invited online, by telephone, through U.S. mail, and during two public open houses (October 20 in Tacoma; October 24 in Puyallup). The input received through December 27 is compiled below. All comments are reflected in their original language and format (i.e., are transcribed verbatim), with the exception of the input received by telephone, which were primarily summarized. All input was scrubbed for personal information and offensive language. Overarching analysis of these comments will be available.

**Input Provided Online at [www.cleanairpiercecouny.org](http://www.cleanairpiercecouny.org)**

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Where is the option, "Back off on some of this fanaticism about getting every last bit of anything anybody doesn't like out of the air"? I've lived in and around Tacoma for nearly 40 years, and have seen the air QUALITY, over all, increase significantly. It's never going to be perfect; even without people, nature causes some "pollution". There needs to be an option, "Give the nit pickers a long time-out, and give the rest of us a break." And don't whine to me about how it's all federally "mandated". Federal foolishness can be changed by legislation if there is leadership to do it.

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I know it's more expensive but I'd like to see more enforcement. I live in Old Town and there are times in the summer and winter when wood smoke is in the air. It's bad enough going outside and having to breath it in, but somehow this also gets circulated inside my house, particularly when it gets really cold in the winter. I had neighbors in Puyallup who were oblivious to burn bans and used their wood stove every day, even though they had a furnace. My mother died from COPD so I want to keep as much pollution out of my lungs as possible.

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Many homeowners can't tell if their woodstove is certified or not due to the labels not being accessible. Even with a subsidy, replacing a woodstove is a huge expense that is not affordable to most families in my neighborhood. You would be surprised how many families don't turn on their furnaces in winter and survive with just the heat from their stoves. The previous owners of my house were such a family. Recently from Mexico, I'm told there were 9 people living here, where now there is 1, and that it was always cold because they were afraid to turn on the old furnace due to the high cost. This is a poverty issue that requires sensitivity to the fact that many can't afford \$150-250/mo electric bills. Many of these homes are owned by retired military who are on small pensions. I only burn wood on a night when I'm in my living room watching TV, but many burn day and night for warmth. After the 4-day power outage several years ago, I decided my next place would have a woodburning stove in case of another extended power outage. In case of a disastrous earthquake or volcanic eruption, or extended power failure, we need to maintain always the option of woodburning stoves. Granted certified stoves are the best, but never eliminate stoves entirely. Maybe provide electric subsidies in winter to encourage less usage of wood, but it is also an aesthetic experience one should not be denied to enjoy a

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warm fire.

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I would like to see all wood and coal burning devices baned from within the incorporated towns and cities. Failing that, at least have some designated areas within the cities larger then 100,000 people as no smoke zones. Folks with asthma really need such areas. At any rate, I don't understand why folks think they should be able to trespass and spread their stinking poison on my property, making me sick.

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I would love to have better options to heat my home but \$\$\$ is a big factor. Any suggestions for low income folks?

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Date certain removal is best. Natural gas or propane are far cleaner. No more exceptions for "only source of heat" on burn ban days. That has been an easy out for people who continue to burn wood and refuse to change with the times + circumstances. Old tech, let's be rid of it.

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Why was Sumner left out of the Nonattainment area? Wood smoke pollution is BAD in my neighborhood. I have two neighbors south of my house who burn wood and the entire neighborhood smells like an ash tray in the morning. Please ban older wood stoves immediately.

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I am for clean air, but in the current economic climate, any changes that force cash strapped home owners to replace the wood stoves in their homes is insensitive to the extreme economic situation here in Pierce County. At a time when residents are cutting utility costs to try and make ends meet by turning down, and in some case off the thermostat, you are proposing more costs to them for having a small fire to warm their families.

I think the idea of better publicity about burn bans is great. If there is a burn ban in place during a cold weather inversion I will not burn. I am not opposed to better enforcement tools or permits. Just don't penalize the low income people of Pierce County by requiring us to replace stoves by a certain date, or at the time of sale.

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The regulations that you are proposing hurt those who can least afford the changes. I have no problem requiring you to upgrade your system if it requires replacement do to failure of the existing system or new construction or the sale of the home. I'm TOTALLY OPPOSED to ANY changes by a certain date period!

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I support all efforts to improve air quality in University Place. My neighborhood is so smoky that I am unable to go for a walk nine months out of the year. I usually suffer from asthma only while home, because the air quality is so poor compared to the rest of the state. I'm so glad that you are doing something about our very serious problem. Please inspect all stoves and provide options for everyone - even renters. For those with very smoky fireplaces and stoves I support helping them to fuel switch or burn cleanly. There should be no option to continue causing illness to neighbors. Strict enforcement is needed in the evening too, because that is when people return from work and begin to burn. I do not like allowing people to use smoky stoves as their only source of heat because these stoves are not fairly distributed. One smoky stove is all it takes to pollute a large area and keep people indoors. That is unfair. I support removing all these stoves and replacing them, as indicated above.

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This just makes me want to say [expletive] it and go get drunk or something. Maybe we should create about 152 more government agencies dedicated to people who can't stand all the b.s. -- "It's ok people, its for clean \_\_\_\_\_, plus we'll just tax the [expletive] out of somebody else and give you their money to help you \_\_\_\_! And if you happen to enjoy a real fireplace, or get nostalgic (sp?)

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over the smell of wood burning in the neighborhood and/or our once robust and formerly truly DIVERSE culture where one used to be able to be an individual and if anyone else thought that wasn't right they could move to Clear Lake, SD where we've been sucking air for quite a few years and haven't tipped over yet...or just plain can't stand being spoon fed any more "the government said it's a health risk" [expletive] or you'll puke, then you must be an evil \_\_\_\_!" -- and want to hang themselves...with government subsidized rope. It should be easy, and cost effective. The rope is already in a stranglehold around our necks and we could sell it to the dupes by telling them this way the benefit recipients will be helping to reduce the pollution they're creating. Is Russia nice this time of year? I'm yearning for freedom. Could you tell? "Nonattainment"! hahahaaaa

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outdoor burning is another huge problem that needs to be addressed. We all have to breath the same air. Winds blow! Here on the plateau the pollution from outdoor burning has had a HUGE impact on the air quality. PLEASE FIGHT AND VOTE TO BAN ALL OUT DOOR BURNING!!

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Ban all woodburning devices, indoors or outdoors. Also ban charcoal bar-b-ques and fire pits. Ban outdoor burning year round. There have been many winter days that I could not work in my yard due to wood smoke from neighbors. I suspect they are burning old varnished wood. I have spent many summer days and nights locked up in a sweltering house because the air outside is so full of charcoal smoke.

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Thank you so much for this much needed notice. I abhor the reek of wood smoke and feel it should be outlawed in the city. When I walk or ride my bike in the winter I feel as if I'm getting asphyxiated. I would never burn the filthy stuff. The "pseudo-rustics" who like to burn need to get into this century and realize there are cleaner ways to heat a home. Thanks again!

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Ever hear of Ex Post Facto? Look it up. Stop trying to wrangle every last cent of the citizens of Tacoma. I didn't have to have a permit 4 years ago when I decided to pay \$2000 for a wood stove to heat my home because I was tired of being raped by the power company. And now you want me to have a permit to continue to use it? How about grandfathering those who already have wood stoves? Here is an idea that I am sure has never come up. How about lower your [expletive] power rates and see how that helps. Try to come to my home and remove my stove. [Expletive]-holes.

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I have been required to utilize any means available ,including wood in my fireplace to provide some heat . Heating-oil for my furnace IS quite costly , last winter I spent \$ 300.00 each for 100 gallons of heating oil . Many of my neighbors have converted to firer-places or stoves or burning wood --all due to the high cost of oil. I have added insulation, replaced windows, and if it wrre feasable , I would do more . Now , with winter about to begin , I am faced with this dilema again . My wife is from China , where the construction of her building was done with No heat provided due to the climate there.65 or 80 degrees is normal in the winter season there . Polution is a problem there , air , water, soil are all concerns . . I can only speak for myself in this matter , but I must due what I must , my furnace has not been started -- yet but I know the time will come & I must do what I can with what I have.& hope I will be able to provide some measure of confort in my home at a reasonable cost .

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I think we already have too much government involvement in what we do. Polution levels around big industry are being ignored...insufficient safeguards for offshore drilling...all over the place pollution that affects many more folks than some soot particles is being ignored. I think you should turn your attention to that instead of the general public. We're already being regulated to death. Bottom line: I will not support any candidate for office that supports more regulations for the general public. That

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includes the incumbent.

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Yes, I definitely think some restrictions should be made. One neighbor burns garbage, another burns 24 hrs per day, and SW of our house is a wood stove burner that is burning cherry tree wood. It is so obnoxious that not only do I have to make sure our windows are closed, but that the doors to the rooms facing that house are closed. I love fresh air, and I love the smell of fireplaces, but the type of wood should be restricted to clean burning wood (if there is such a thing).

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I am opposed to the elimination of wood burning heating devices. Our air quality seems fine to me. There are very few who burn wood as a primary source of heat. Wood is an excellent source of heat when the power fails. It would be a shame to eliminate a nice fireplace fire on winter holidays. We already have burn bans and smoke limits. That should be enough. Thank you.

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While I myself do not use wood for heat I am quite certain that there are THOUSANDS less homes heated by wood now than there was even 20 years ago. Going after wood burning fireplaces & stoves certified or not is the wrong place and you all know it. ANY study can show only what the people paying for it wants it to show therefore I discount any study commissioned by the city, county, state or fed govts. The mere act of driving a car will produce fine particulates. From exhaust, brakes, and the stirring up of "dust" from the wind vehicles create. I don't see ANYONE trying to stop or restrict people from driving because you know you would have a hard time with that one! I don't see anyone putting restrictions on barbeques. How about all the emissions from restaurant exhaust from cooking? I have many times driven past Burger King & McDonalds & seen more smoke from their exhaust than from a combined several houses. But nobody tries to curtail the fast foodies either. Common sense dictates to anyone with sense that 100,000+ cars & trucks on the road in our county at any given time during the day will cause more particulate pollution than the few who heat with wood. Get a grip & go after the major polluters! Stop going after the very few that either by necessity or choice heat their homes with inexpensive wood. If I had a fireplace/wood stove, the cost to heat my house (if I go cut the wood myself) would be less than half of what I pay to PSE for natural gas (which also produces pollution by the way). It is easy to pick on the minorities since they will always be outvoted by the misinformed. Whats next? Ban any form of heat that doesn't generate revenue for the city/county/state? We are supposed to have a representative democratic honest government, not a dictatorship that says what you can/can't do to n'th degree. I look forward to your response (if any) to the statements I have made

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My neighbor a few years ago took out his oil furnace and put a wood stove in and connected it to the 75 year old chimney, worse yet I have had 2 heart attacks and a 4 way by pass and a pace maker. I have to stay inside on those days when your not supposed to burn as you know what might happen. This man has 4 familys living in this house, they should be able to afford different type of heat.

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As the owner of a home with a woodstove also having one in every home I've owned in the last 40 years. I believe that it is my responsibility to keep my woodstove up to the best standard that I can. I do this for safety so my home doesn't burn down and so I don't waste wood when I burn it. Wood costs money and I want to use the least amount I can while keeping warm. I don't believe that it is the governments place to tell me what I can and cannot do in my home. This is a free country and I understand that there are some laws in place because we need them but if you didn't need to take these actions you are wanting take 10-20 years ago and even before that then what makes you think we need you doing this now. Is it not MY home?

I save lots of energy I don't use as much electricity as my neighbor who doesn't have a wood stove. I usually don't even fire up my woodstove for the first time until November and then usually stop around

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March/April. People that use other types of heat see it as too convenient and probably use heat most of the year at some level except for a few weeks when we have summer.

Right now the economy is in the pits and there are way to many people without jobs and their main focus right now isn't the quality of air, it's food and shelter. One more expense is a hardship. If you tell people they cannot use their stoves when they can't afford other types of heat I'm sure you will find people especially the elderly dying from being sick from the cold. You may as well as just call it murder. Not everyone can afford to upgrade woodstoves now or in the foreseeable future with no hope for this economy right now.

You tell us we have to wear our seatbelts, we can't talk on our phones while driving, we can't have too many cars in our driveway, we have camera's at stop lights and speed zones. You regulate too much of our lives. Our freedoms are going away in all area's of our life. Slowly so we don't notice but nonetheless it is happening. What next, you will have a camera in our homes so you can see if we are breaking the law in our own home. Who are you to think you can dictate how I do a basic thing such as provide myself heat THE WAY I CHOOSE.

Stay out of my house and let me heat it the way I choose with out regulating every step of my actions. This is America the land of the FREE!

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Have you ever noticed how much pollution streams out of airplanes, as they fly over head coming and going from McChord, and settles down in the So. Tacoma area???? Not to mention around Sea-Tac. Something to think about !

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I think that a combo of enhanced education, strict enforcement, with a meaningful fine, and longer burn bans would help. If the burn ban fines are severe enough, that takes away the financial incentive for burning away. If someone is fined for illegal burning, allow them to prove that they've removed the nonconforming stove to receive a reduction on the fine.

I also think that requiring a home with a non confirming stove to be removed or replaced before it can be sold is a good idea. Perhaps offer a financial incentive in the form of rebates if someone pulls out their old stove now, but no rebates if they wait till they sell the home.

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It may be prudent to address the real issue. What is the real break down of particulate from cars, trucks, wood stoves and industry? How many gallons of gas are sold/cnsumued each day vs how many pound of wood in this abatement area? Yes I know a certain amount of the car pollution is burned via catalytic convertes etc yet a percentage gets in to the air just like a wood stove. On my street everybody use to use wood. Now maybe 3 do. Yet where there use to be 6 houses with maybe two cars a piece there is 24 houses with close to three cars a piece. People don't commute to Tacoma or Puyallup they are driving to Seattle. Many more road miles. Please look at the traffic jams with cars idling. Yes cars are cleaner so are wood stoves. I live on some seven acres with the house way back from the road. Were it use to be farm land around now Pierce County permitted houses that are jammed next to each other and they wonder why they have an air pollution problem. Yes I comply with the nooutdoor burning thing which has caused me a lot of expense first in chippers that wear out and hauling to the dump which adds to the air pollution and extra labor cutting up small branches for burning inside. My property is still mostly tree covered which takes consumes much more CO2 then grass covered ground and definitely house covered. Because of the bans many of my neighbors have cleared all their trees because they are too much expense to maintain. My family and I have been maintaining the acreage for over 66 years yet it is ok for people to build houses right up against the property line and then complain about things like smoke from maintaining the property while petitioning for zoning to prevent further development while

because they like to look at your trees.

Maybe one should address the number of cars per acre and miles driven. Yes I ride my bicycle 13 miles each way to work and inhale my share of fine particle pollution from the cars not only during temperature inversions but year around. I try to leave my car parked and only use it when I have to. In really bad weather I use the bus. Which brings to mind the question as to how much added air pollution will occur with the recent bus cuts? On the route that I rode most frequently there was an average of 15 people. So 15 cars polluting now instead of one natural gas bus.

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What was the first year that wood burning inserts sold had to be certified?

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I believe the enforcement of current regulations is extremely lax. In the City of Puyallup, there is no enforcement of the ban on burning of yard waste. If you have installed a "recreational fire pit" on your property, it seems to be acceptable to burn yard waste in it. That is the result in my neighborhood. If air quality is to be improved, the answer like many problems is going to be multi-faceted. Enforcement must be strengthened. As far as I know there isn't even a telephone number to report violators, let alone an agency assigned to enforcement at the home owner level.

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You want to change the rules for wood burning in Pierce County, based on the results of one station in south Tacoma? I don't think I have even smelled smoke in the air in the past year - besides smoke from an occasional BBQ. I bet everyone of you who sit on the board are all gainfully employed and living in nice warm homes with gas/oil systems. Right? Additional fines and permits? My fireplace will be my primary source of heat this year because I cannot afford oil for my furnace.

Night time enforcement? How do you intend to do that? Smoke-sniffing helicopter? Additional enforcement staff? It sounds like you're just trying to create some more jobs at the public's expense. Instead of bringing more rules and fines down on those you serve, why not work to change the EPA's regulations? After all, your own chart shows there has been a decrease in wood particulate pollution last year, right? Please keep in mind who you represent..

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One forest fire (of which there have been dozens this year alone) puts out enough smoke to more than compensate for a few wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. There are enough -- MORE than ENOUGH -- regulations, rules, and statutes regarding environmental and ecological matters. Citizens don't NEED more rules. We are regulated from birth to grave. S.T.O.P. with attempts to regulate. Please. Go be useful. Save a whale, or something. Nice visual "scare" message on your posts cards, by the way. Most folks know that wood burning produces white, not black smoke.

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I have no problem with your intentions to clean up the air quality of Pierce county but I am greatly opposed to more rules and regulations our government tries to impose on its citizens. Are we no longer able to ASK others to do their part for the greater good? or do we all need more LAWS? I am 57 years old and I have never felt so CONTROLLED by others as now. What will you do for those who may have to heat their homes supplementally...charge them a fee? or fine them? I'm sure if they had money to upgrade to more energy efficient inserts they would. Many just don't have the means to do it. How about this?..don't make another regulation that people can't keep, if you want more efficient heating with less pollution, how about offering to exchange their old ones? I'm sure you would get a positive response in return.

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First of all I would like to mention that we have owned and used a wood insert in our present home in Tacoma so I understand the appeal of burning wood as well as cost savings, however we now feel that

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wood burning stoves should be banned completely in the city. I believe this is the law in Denver CO. as well as parts of California. There are 2 wood burning stoves on our block. The one 2 doors to the north of us gives us no problem at all but the wood stove next door causes unseemingly misery, anger and grief starting about this time of year until about the end of April.

We have reported them so many times but apparently their stove is legal, so there is more to it than just having a certified stove. What about people who burn trash in their stoves or unseasoned or painted wood?

Let me explain our situation. We live at the top of the hill. Our house is a large and tall. The offending stove is in the small cottage house next door to the south of us. The street in front of our home is fairly narrow with cars on both sides and it is not safe or practical to park there, however, there is a lane behind our home where we have access to our detached garage and mostly gravelled back yard where we park our cars. We bought this home in 1986 and have always entered through the back door. As you know, it is very windy in Tacoma. When our neighbour has the stove going it creates a great deal of black stinking smoke. His smoke stack is on the side of his house that is closest to us. The wind picks up the smoke and instead of blowing it away swirls it around and seems to hold it in the area between the 2 houses. This is right where our back door is located. In just the short time it takes to get your computer, groceries, or other valuables out of the car and walk to and unlock the door your lungs, hair, and clothes are full of this dangerous stinking smoke. Also, I cannot leave a window slightly open without my house filling up with smoke. It makes us so very angry. I've talked to my neighbour about it and begged him to stop using wood or to find a solution to the problem. He says he is not doing anything illegal and has a right to burn wood if he wants. Former owners of the house installed a gas furnace in the late 80's or early 90's so I know they have another heat source. If it was just stinky maybe I could learn to live with it but the health risks are so great.

I was diagnosed with stage 4 non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2000. The cancer was throughout my abdominal area and even in my bone marrow. My husband has had a heart attack and has a stent. We are both young, don't smoke or drink and generally live a healthy lifestyle. I am not saying that the smoke from the woodstove caused these health problems but as my doctor says, "It didn't help." Our health is good again and I want to keep it that way, I worry a lot about my neighbour's wood burning. I have even seen big flaming pieces of something come out of his smoke stack, land on his roof and fizzle a while before going out. I was on my way to work one morning when I saw it. I phoned my neighbour to let him know but he was unconcerned. His house could have easily caught fire!

So, as I see it, we need to educate people about the health hazards of wood stoves. Maybe we could make wood stove burning households take a class and get certified by the city before they are allowed to use their stoves. How about making them prove that they have had their smoke stacks cleaned at least every 5 years or so. What about making them pay a fee to the city like we pay if we have an alarm system, -\$40 yearly. Definitely have all uncertified stoves removed before homes can be sold, just as old oil tanks in the ground must be removed now and have all uncertified stoves removed from homes within 8 yrs. [The recession should be over by then.] Thanks for giving us the opportunity to sound off. Smokey on the Hill.

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We just purchased a house in Tacoma in April. Before that my family and I rented a home in Old Town for three years. I do not have a fireplace, so therefore, do not burn wood. I wonder if you could tell me why the air has been smelling really bad for the past week. I have a hard time believing that it is the wood burning stoves. It smells more industrial.

Every morning I drop my son off at Lowell Elementary and I can see a plume of smoke coming out of the factory across the water. I feel horrible leaving my child at the school, knowing that he is breathing the

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polluted air all day long. Lately he has been complaining of tightness in his chest, especially when he is running on the soccer field. I have a mild case of asthma myself. In the past few days my chest has felt tighter than usual. I work in Auburn and the air there smells fine, It is just when I drive into Tacoma that it gets heavy and stinky. Is there anything being done about this? I am concerned. Thanks for responding.

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I like the part about increasing enforcement of burn bans but am concerned about requiring people to replace old wood burning stoves. This is a tough time for many people economically. People don't don't restrictions that make it even more difficult to sell a home.

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A person entering the Allyn city limits does not have to look far to see wood stove smoke. Almost all residents and some business folks still use wood as a source heat. I have called the Air agency in Olympia several times to see what could be done to stop these violaters. Olympia is about 40 miles from Allyn. I have asked them to come out and investigate. The answer is always we do not have the man power to do this. The Agency said to send them the addresses of the violaters. What is the deal with these folks? What conditions need to exist before action is done? All of the violaters have homes and business that do not qualify for the grandfather clause. As a citizen of this county and town what choices do I have to eradicate this illegal activity?

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My neighbor burns wood in an open fire pit in his backyard once or twice a week. Sometimes I can't even enjoy my own backyard there is so much smoke. Since this type of burning is purely for recreational purposes it would make sense to me to ban it, at least within the city limits.

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The development I live in is an unincorporated area but with a high housing density (Lake Holiday). In the winter, the amount of smoke in the air is quite high. The air is static because of all the trees. I would endorse the idea of making people install cleaner burning stoves or providing incentives to switch to cleaner ways of heating homes. I think it would be useful to continue to remind people of the relative costs of heating with wood- I don't think it is that cheap. Some people are put off by the capital costs of installing heat pumps maybe the utilities could have a program that uses the cost savings from the heat pump to help pay for new equipment- not a subsidy but a loan program.

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Hello, I definitely DO NOT want this burn ban to take effect. My husband and I just spent several thousand dollars to put in a wood burning insert last year. Our house is a split-level so if we turn up the heat, the upstairs gets hot and the downstairs stays cold. Having the insert downstairs and allowing the heat rise heats our house more evenly. It doesn't seem to affect our natural gas usage. When I compared the bill to the previous year I still spent the same amount of money on natural gas. It's about comfort. When I see the factories in the Port of Tacoma spewing out smoke, I hardly think my wood stove compares. Taking away my right to have a wood burning stove will NOT change the Aroma of Tacoma. If you want to help with the environment, then why are you taking away vehicle emissions testing?

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I am concerned that this push to reduce wood smoke may mainly be aimed at satisfying concerns of a few, while inhibiting those who need to heat with wood for economic reasons. I photograph many homes for a living and most all homes I see are not even using wood in their fireplaces but rather, gas. If someone is actually using wood it's probably because they cannot afford gas or electric heat. Another point I want to make is that an efficient fire can be had with very basic means or adjustments. Educational materials should be provided to help people get the most heat out of their wood resources.

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with people struggling to pay their bills wood heat is a cheap option for people to heat their homes during the winter. if I had to choose between feeding my family or heating my home I'd have to choose feeding more important. we are all living paycheck to paycheck right now and hoping that we don't get laid off from our jobs so to want to stop people from burning to wood to heat their homes is absurd. we need to help people survive and keep a roof over their heads verses taking away a heating option.

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Non-enforcement of existing laws is the problem in my North End neighborhood. I have two neighbors who regularly burn wood outdoors in their backyards. One neighbor burns trash with wood. I've spoken to both of them because two of my family members have asthma, and their burning causes smoke to come into our home. I've called the police and the fire departments. The most that was done was that on one occasion the fire department drove by and informed the neighbor that they needed to put the fire out "unless you are cooking food".

I believe we need to recruit the police and fire departments to take air pollution seriously, and to enforce obvious and deliberate law breaking. We live in the city, one open outdoor fire not only makes our neighborhood miserable for people with allergies and asthma, it must contribute to the particulate count we are having difficulty with. Please let me know if there is a better route for me to use to shut down my neighbor's outdoor burning.

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ME DEP-EPA modeling shows old and certified equipment violates pm stds 50% to 90% of the time in design conditions. Worse, hourly pm causes violations of pm stds in about 1-2 hours. Also: CDC science shows wood smoke pm to be more toxic and variable requiring great caution since heart attacks and asthma attacks to sensitives are shown to happen within an hour or two almost nightly in winter due to inversions. Base regional city pm is increased 25 mcg/m<sup>3</sup> or more and hotspot pollution from stoves at nearby houses causes pm to increase 25 mcg/m<sup>3</sup> on ave to 5,000 mcg/m<sup>3</sup> for extreme choking of stoves. Hotspot pollution is all but ignored and the regional pm is subject to manipulation that decreases the appearance of pollution. 24 hr averaging decreases pollution. Limited monitors and hotspot avoidance reduces pm values. Thus, pollution is much worse than believed. Photos of cities engulfed in wood smoke show this. Stove tests are for new clean equipment operated by experts and do not reflect real life conditions and extreme choking which is common. Tests by the EPA on [www.burningissues.org](http://www.burningissues.org) show stack emission rates are like old stoves after months. Pm concentrations in the air are not even considered. This is the important thing. Corruption has been said to exist between the EPA and the HPBA industry as well by EPA officials. The majority of world scientists as shown by the U.N. recommend that developed countries stop all stove and fireplace use with wood and switch to gas equipment to protect life and earth and global warming. Government encouragement of more wood burning equipment is bad policy because it favors the HPBA companies and harms public health. Consider that a certified stove can create 400 mcg/m<sup>3</sup> pm max (200 mcg/m<sup>3</sup> ave?) from excessive choking and ave choking and the std is 35 mcg/m<sup>3</sup>. And choking is common. Burn it smart education does not work and changeout programs take 20 years while heart attacks and asthma attacks and other symptoms can occur within minutes to hours. Pollution is also more than pm and 6 pollutants. There are 180 air toxics nobody seems to understand which combine in unknown ways. Best bet: ban on all still nights, most nights. Allow burning possibly if and only if burning is not causing complaints. Since modeling and monitoring shows dangers, ban upon complaint with close neighbors perhaps upon verification of smell. The BAAQMD and a Berkeley engineer recommended this after joint modeling or estimating of pm concentrations. Congressional burn it smart and changeout programs are not based on good science since no modeling was available to congress. When cities and houses are shown engulfed in wood smoke, you know government is not working in this area. Tobacco precedents with no safe dose should also be considered, since tobacco smoke and wood smoke are similar though wood

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smoke is 12 times more carcinogenic.

See The International Coalition Against Wood Burning Pollution and Burning Issues websites and [www.3sc.net/airqual/mapping](http://www.3sc.net/airqual/mapping).

I have experience modeling stoves and fireplaces and someone who helped craft some owb law warnings against health nuisances in the fine print. I was also a wood smoke victim that led to my co founding The International Coalition Against Wood Burning Pollution. You could say in a way that entire scientific community of the world is against the lame actions recommended by the US government believed to working hand in hand with the HPBA industry like the oil industry was working with BP causing the BP oil disaster in the gulf.

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Wood for fuel is now or will soon be the last bastion of tax-free, non-government controlled heat source in the PNW if not the US. Wood for fuel is considered "sustainable", and "carbon-neutral" - all supposedly Good Things in this new world of the demonization of the stuff of life, CO2. Wood for fuel has a long history of use in the PNW, and I for one have gone out with my grandfather, father, and now my son - each and every year for as long as I can recall - collecting firewood for the coming cold and wet seasons. Try staying warm without firewood when the electrical power goes out! I see this effort of attempting to control when we use and how much we burn firewood to be an attempt to better control all sources of energy and heat. While particulates can and do cause respiratory disease after long exposure (I know about this because I am a long State-certified Asbestos Trainer) the outright banning of our last self-controlled, tax-free source of heat and energy would be a travesty, and I will fight such activities to take this away from me until the issue has been won for the free American of the PNW.  
/rant off/

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Now is Not the Time. With the ongoing recession, too many people are dependent upon wood heat to stay warm. Many cannot afford higher priced alternative electricity or fuel oil. These alternatives just consume too much of each family's disposable income. In addition, in this super depressed real estate market, it is impractical to further burden sales by mandating, enforcing the removal of non-certified stoves. Overall, this whole effort is best deferred to better economic conditions and more affordable alternative energy (heat) sources.

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recently invested \$3500 for efficient woodburning insert to supplement heating, or when power is out-- would hate to see this investment baned or highly restricted because other people choose to ignore upgrading--there must be other ways to stop noncertified users--maybe a registration process to be approved--fine those not on the list--I want to help but do not want to lose this source heat--keep me posted.

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I hope you do EVERYTHING you can get away with to improve Tacoma's air. I would be in favor of a total ban of all wood to heat homes. Certainly there would be protests, but at least move in that direction.

I totally support this option: Removing uncertified wood stoves and inserts by a date certain. This solution is the same as removing uncertified wood stoves and inserts at the time of sale but rather than at sale, the removal would be required by a certain date in the future. Incentives might be available to help with replacement as well as improved weatherization.

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Considering the current state of the economy, I don't like either solution.

Option #1: To require that all wood stoves and inserts that are not certified to be removed from a house that is sold seems to pose more expenses to the home owners. The last thing we need is to have, yet,

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another expense when we either buy or sell our home. However, if this is tactfully executed with large incentives, ease of a disposal program, and economical then it may work.

Option #2: To outlaw the use of uncertified wood stoves on a particular day would not only cost a great deal of money to enforce and would not be effective.

There needs to be incentive for the people to replace their current wood burning stoves and inserts. The reason people burn with wood is because it's much cheaper than using electricity or gas. Hence, the solution is to make an incentive program that is economical and easy. Suggestion would be to team up with manufacturers, installers, and recyclers to keep cost down. Let's say that Pierce County purchases 1000 wood stoves and inserts. They should be able to get a good discount and pass that through to the people in which the county works for. Secondly, you guarantee a certain amount of work in which they give another discount. Last, you sell the old stoves to a company that can retrofit or recycle them. There is no reason that it has to cost \$1500 to \$2500 to get a wood stove installed. There is not a lot of people that have that kind of money sitting around.

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My income is above the levels of rebates or incentives that would make it feasible to switch. The levels should be raised to really help the woodstove owners who have many bills to pay monthly and are still paying monthly home payments and paying taxes. I have free access to wood for burning and to switch would cost more monthly for pellets, gas or electric. The initial outlay for a replacement is a deal breaker for me.

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1. I think new homes should not be built with wood burning fireplaces but an alternative like gas or electric fireplace insert that produces heat.
  2. When selling older homes a requirement to inspect and define the use of old fireplaces, so a potential homeowner knows the rules about burning.
  3. Give some kind of a tax break or credit to people who wish to upgrade to a more efficient fireplace or insert. I lose lots of heat out my fireplace and do not use it because it is poor heating and it's dirty & unsafe.
  4. When doing the city energy package upgrade include fireplaces as part of the 0% interest loan, like windows & insulation. I had this done to my home a few years ago, but I still lose heat out of my fireplace. Others in my neighborhood burn wood in their fireplaces I think more for appearance than heating source. The smoke stays trapped in our low lying area and we cannot even have our windows open or cracked without smelling the pollution. Hope some of these ideas help when trying to reduce pollution in our area.

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I think you all are full of crap! We are people that are trying to heat our homes in a crippling economy where everything is higher except our pay! Now you are telling us we can't burn wood???? WTF!!!! Are you going to pay for my heat? [Expletive] it costs just as much money to deliver Water and Electric as well as to consume it! I am really getting tired of people (government) telling us what we can or cannot do!!!!

Living in Washington we all should have FREE Electricity .... but we don't, because of the all mighty dollar AGAIN! Tell Weyerhaeuser to quit cutting down trees! hmmm that will never happen cause again it's all about the benjamin's!

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I am big on cleaning the air, saving trees and keeping wildlife safe. I used to use a woodstove for the winters and then when moving to Puyallup 13 years ago bought a gas stove. It made me feel like I was helping with the air and still keeping warm. I still own a home in Puyallup but currently living in Kitsap

County tending to some property for the winter. I will be using a wood stove. I know it is not in Pierce but the concerns are the same everywhere. The reason I will be using the stove this year is because it is much cheaper to pay for a cord of wood than to pay the power bill for heat. Pierce County has mostly Puget Sound Energy or City of Tacoma. The cost is getting so much higher to afford. Due to jobs cuts, furloughs, no raises and prices going up on food, utilities etc..... it is sad to say but to survive this winter, people will be looking at survival more than clean air. If there is a way you can work with the utility areas and reducing costs so we can use their supply and clean the air, that would be a huge benefit. Guilt plays a part when using a woodstove, but keeping my family warm in the winter and having money to feed them will be first.

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Band all burning year around

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People need to be reminded about the BENEFITS of switching to NATURAL GAS as a means of combatting particulate fireplace emissions:

Step 1: Repeat, repeat, repeat the benefits of gas over wood: \*no particulate emissions,\*no wood storage or handling,\*no smoke-smell in house,\*no ashes in firebox,\*no creosote in chimney,\*instant on/off of flame. (Coupled with use of an earthquake valve for added safety.....very significant)

Step 2: Offer a "plan" or outline detailing the use of in-street gas service, OR the use of a LPG tank as a fuel source. Many users, especially if the fireplace is used only occasionally, or if used only during winter months, would benefit from using the "tank" option.

I suspect many residents would be interested in exploring a switch to gas, but need to have the steps and benefits clearly outlined beforehand. This explanation would also detail the fireplace/freestanding stove modifications necessary to accomodate the gas conversion.

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I think you nuts ought to mind your own [expletive] business,your regulations are bankrupting this county and killin jobs,people are out of work and loosing their homes and retirements maybe if you focused on those problems you might be doing the job we pay you for.With all the imcomes and jobs just about gone why in the [expletive] arent you worrying about that,instead of this bull [expletive].everyone of you liberal monkeys ought to be fired.

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De-fund PSCA.

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As an unemployed single mother of two boys, I'm angry that it will be us who will suffer. It is hard enough now... Does my little family have to lose the house to pay the heat bill through the long cold winter and wet fall? I burn because the wood is free, and the electric bill is not. Please consider only asking the people who can afford it to bear the burden of change, that I, too.... think should happen.

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Gentleman, How can this be a problem? It rains almost everyday and the rain scrubs the air clean. Also the weather center has told us we are in another La Nina so its another 6 months of guaranteed heavy parcipatation. I don't see a wood stove as a threat to my health. I think you folks are over reacting.

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The pierce country task force needs to remember that people are using wood burning stoves during cold weather to keep their home warm without going bankrupt. Gas, Oil and Electric heat can cost hundreds of dollars per month during the winter. Your answer is to spend tens of thousands of dollars for home improvements to keep the air inside the house with better insulating. You also forget that most people don't have the big bucks needed for those "improvements" which by the way can create more unhealthy living conditions due to the stagnate air inside tight homes, creating worse problems with mold, dust

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etc..

First light bulbs go from relatively safe to the so called "eco" bulbs that are laced with hazardous materials and chemicals (lead, mercury, and phosphorus) that require special treatment in not just handling but disposal also. read their labels! Food, or freeze for seniors on fixed incomes, student families and young adults just starting out. So now you want to make that choice for us between freezing in our homes and eating? Guess what I'm thinking.

The pollution problem is not the small percentage of homes burning wood stoves, but diesel bus's, trucks and industry through out the county who by a stupid law can sell or buy pollution credits in order to skate past standing laws against particle emissions standards. It's Tacoma Powers strangle hold on the Pierce counties electrical grid with a free for all when it comes to frivolous spending of money they don't have and the ability to hold the citizens to rate increases we have no control over, no mater how high they go.

The tail pipe testing on cars is a joke as it doesn't test for carbon emissions, so someone driving a car that clouds the road in oily blue smoke or bad diesel injectors pumping clouds of black "soot" can easily pass the test - FIX THAT FIRST THEN COME TO THE PEOPLE AND TELL US HOW GREAT OF A JOB YOU ARE DOING WE MIGHT BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO YOU IF YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING OTHER THAN STEALING FROM US! Loop holds or a full blown crock, either way you worthless government officials are all on the take and not doing anything to fix the real problems in society. You simply target the easy money and pass laws to continue stealing from the public. Stay of our homes and pockets! You need to disband the "Clean Air Task Force" and stop wasting public tax dollars so that you can justify your worthless jobs.

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We have a fireplace no insert, we use our fireplace in the winter when and if the electricity goes out, also use it to at times in the winter to cut down on using our electric heat, which is costly in the winter, we cannot afford to upgrade to gas or anything else to heat our home.

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We have a zero clearance fire place that has a built in the late 80's. It provides over 50 percent of our heat. I do not know if this would be included in the class you are talking about but we would not be able to afford to keep the house worm with out it. The maps you have are not real good and it looks like we are close to the edge of clean air area.

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Burn bans should include wood stoves. I guess an exeption could be made for homes with no other heat source. This should be addressed by a code change requiring new or remodeled homes to have an adequate furnace. "Certified" stoves are only as good as their maintenance. How can you enforce that? I like the idea of removing wood stoves at the sale of a house also.

My wife has a lung problem and we have two wood burners in the neighborhood. Sometimes we have to shut up the house so she can breathe.

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To my mind, there needs to be a distinction between wood burning and pellet burning. Pellets, I believe are much clean than wood. Not to make it too complicated but I beleive there is a difference in the type of wood that is burned, isn't hardwood cleaner than pine?

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Along with wood stoves and fireplaces I have more of a problem with a neighbor and his recreational fires through out the year. I feel the regulations need to be tightened and enforced on all wood burning fires.

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Two thoughts; first is that in order for you to hold people accountable for older and more polluting wood stoves, you will have to create a large work force that inspects, and certifies (or de-certify's) the existing wood stoves. Second is that most people in my area use a fire pit to rid themselves of old, downed tree limbs and leaves and even trash from the kitchen. This is the one area of pollution in my immediate area that I would love to have cleaned up. But there is no enforcement available unless a neighbor complains and that is only to the fire dept. No one is ever held accountable.

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I think you should butt out. I don't need some Govt agency to regulate what I do to heat my home or to tell me what to breath. America is in trouble due to Govt. interference and regulation that continues to eliminate jobs and industries. What is wrong with you people????

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I believe that there should not be ban on burning wood in the fireplaces, especially in this economy. A lot of people using fireplaces to heat up their houses because it helps them save money on electricity. One thing that should be done is to put ban on burning leaves and brushes in the yards and provide some kind of credits when people take their yard waste to specific Pierce County Yard Waste Dumps. Improving public transportation is another way to improve air pollution. I live outside the city limits and looking at public transportation well there is none. People have to walk few miles to reach bus stop, which its easier to just jump in your car instead of using public transportation. Another way is to improve recycle process. King County offers better recycle system for glasses, papers, food waste, etc. By improving this, pollution can be reduced as well.

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I think that the way to reduce emissions in old stoves is the use of preheating catalytic converter, much like automobiles. I don't even know if there is such a thing, but if you can heat up the catalytic converter installed in flue, it should burn up pollutants coming from the stove due to low temperature burning at starting. I also think that main source of the pollution problem during temperature inversion comes from automobile emissions more than wood stoves.

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If the Tacoma Public utilities didnt charge so much for our electricity and if Pierce County would have more programs/loans for everyone to put better windows and insulation in all homes I think it would help.

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on the next corner lives a man whos stove chokes me with smoke.I have asked him to please open the draft so that his fire can burn cleanly. he refuses saying that his wife likes the fire choked down.It seems that she likes not having to put wood in,and does't like too much heat at once.The blanket of smoke that hangs over the block is intolerable.that one stove puts out as much pollution as all of the rest of the stoves in the area combine!

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Are you kidding me!!!! With our tough economic times our wonderful government wants us to spend more money. Do you not realize that some people can only afford wood heat no matter if we have an electric or gas option. We work hard to put up wood for the winter to save money on heating our home.. I think it is absolutely wrong for you to force us that cannot afford the high power bills to spend more money that we don't have to comply with your so called environmental conservation by forcing us to use a local utility witch put money in to the governments pocket.. very unfair

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I would like to see some real incentives for removing wood stoves. I am not certain if pellet stoves are better, but a financial certificate for the purchase of either a pellet stove or a free standing gas stove would be helpful. I am not talking about two or three hundred, I think maybe \$1,000. Also there should

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be a an outright ban on wood stoves in garages and work shops.

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My husband has COPD; is on oxygen 24 hr pr day and I have asthma. In the neighborhood where we live people burn wood & etc. throughout the Fall, Winter & Spring time of year. We try to make our home as airtight as possible, but it is not totally possible. We end up wheezing & coughing continously. Sometimes our noses burn from the smoke. Our lives are being cut short by the amount of smoke and particles in the air here. We live on a limited income, so to move would be unthinkable. We wish we could get the message accross to all our neighbors how much what they are burning is affecting not only us, but them as well, healthwise. Not being able to get your air is a frightful thing. We understand that most people who live around us are trying to cut their utility costs and we are sympathatic to that fact. But if there was a way to let them all know what really happens as a person ages and what is happening to us, we sure would be willing to help that cause. So many days we are limited to inside our home, even when the weather permits us to be outside---because of the burning that is going on around us. We live in Spanaway, Wa. 98387 Our names are...[My husband] is 74 yrs young and I am 70 yrs young. Cudos to all that help the CleanAirProject

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i recently purchased an epa certified wood stove to supplement my heating. i currently have a furnace that only heats my living room, the wood stove was less expensive than a new whole house furnace system. i will use the wood stove as i need it

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As a single parent that will have to heat my home with only a wood burning stove this winter, it would pose a great hardship to have a reduction in wood burning at this time. The oil furnace I have in my home died mid winter last year, it was original to the house which is 65+ years old, I was laid off for six months of this year so it will be next summer before I am able to upgrade and weatherize my home.

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Better notification re burn bans is ABSOLUTELY necessary! In our neighborhood we can immediately notice the negative air quality result of burning on cold weather inversion days.

QUESTION: Does burning 'hard' woods vs 'soft' woods have a different impact on this issue? We spent a month in New Zealand during their winter--where wood burning was ever-present (residences, businesses, restaurants) and little air quality impact was noticeable--even on 'inversion-like' days. Is there any evidence about the difference between 'hard' vs 'soft' woods?? thanks.

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When we bought a home it had a fireplace and we were happy that it did. We looked forward to having a fireplace. If it did not have a fireplace we would look for a way to build one in. Essentially we want a fireplace. It serves two purposes; asthetics and warmth. So, if the county wants to take away the asthetics that is livable. But to take away the warmth with no compensation is criminal. In Hawaii (our last residence) the county paid residents (actually a credit against the utility) to have an electric meter/control attached to the water heater. Everything is Hawaii (almost) runs on electric energy. The trick was that the county could turn off the electricity to the water heater during certain times of the day (and hence save electricity at peak consumption times). But there was an incentive to let the county install the device. What I am getting at is that Pierce County can get a similar response if they offer an incentive, such as \$40/month during the winter months to pay for the added gas expenses (4 BD RM house), maybe less for smaller houses, if the receiver agreed not to use the fireplace. The bottom line is that incentives makes a bad pill easier to swallow.

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I do not agree that we necessarily have a problem. There may well be days we should not burn, however I feel this is another layer of bureaucratic control that is not needed. Simple bans that might be necessary are fine, but with the ample amount of rain and precip that we get, I do not feel that we

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need another layer of bureaucrats and some enforcement agency to be on a payroll to provide advising. If there is a ban, most people are receptive and we don't need a burn ban police force or another regulative committee to muddy the waters. You have my opinion now I will listen to yours. I doubt it will do much good but the majority of taxpayers would probably agree with me, that we have enough regulation. JR

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As a homeowner in a depressed economy I am sensitive to regulations that will cost me money. This is even more critical when the changes may not be necessary. Your web site says we may be breathing particles and there are links and studies but the links and studies are not cited. The area map that shows particulate counts has only one location that does not meet the federal standard and that is the city of Tacoma. I am not convinced the federal standards are needed.

The only way to get rid of this type of particulate matter in the air we breathe would be to eliminate all motor vehicles, all industry that produce them and all wood burning. Society could not continue to function under these conditions. Obviously this is not practical, but the question is where to draw the line. Our society will always produce these particulates and our bodies are designed to accommodate them to a point.

At what stage is it acceptable to let the federal government turn our local society upside down - particularly in the entire county due to the higher numbers in one city - with restrictions and changes that will surely place the bulk of the financial burden on those who can afford it the least?

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I think that you people from KING County just want to have everybody suffer just like you!!! The only other source of heat in the fall/winter/spring is either wood or electric. The electric rates are above what it was when ENRON was gouging the markets. They just repackaged the actual rate. Now they charge you for the usage and the distribution and the fees. When one goes to the gas station one pays one rate so much per gallon all included not one rate for the actual gas one for the distribution one for the gas station operator one for the local taxes, one for the state taxes, and another for the federal taxes, etc etc no one pays one rate for a gallon of gas. That was the way it was before ENRON and then the electric company kept on gouging us the ones that can least afford it. I mean the WORKING people not the ones on welfare or other "entitlement" programs.

What you should be doing is going after the skyhigh electric rates and may be one would have less need to use a cheap and renewable resource for life giving heat especially in the coldest of the winter!!! When the electric heat(baseboard) just does not keep the house above the hyperthermia stage. Of course you won't even acknowledge this so.....

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There are 2 homes in my area that emit widespread smoke/pollution regularly due to old fireplace/woodstove use. It is amazing how much pollution 1 or 2 fireplaces can make.....however these people cannot afford a new efficient woodstove nor do they plan on selling their homes. What about offering a partially subsidized new woodstove purchase offer (in lieu of a fine for polluting)? In this economy there must be woodstove dealers willing to negotiate a special low sales price for the volume an offer like this would generate. Instead of spending money trying to develop more ways to catch people polluting why not direct funds into a program to encourage exchanging old stoves for new - while helping small business stay afloat?

Education on woodstove efficiency in terms of usage costs would be beneficial as well - explaining how more wood is used and less heat is generated from these old inefficient systems.

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the reason I burn seasoned dry firewood in my home during the cold months is because it's COLD!

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Cannot afford to run furnace non stop during winter months in this economy nor would I be able to buy a new wood stove if mine were outdated. Not so sure how you could even think about enforcement and the costs of in these times. Now if you were to offer to pay my heating bill say December thru February I would be happy to quit burning wood altogether, after all it would be much easier on my back, no cutting, loading, splitting, stacking etc. Thanks, Just Simply trying to Keep Warm.

P.S. I don't appreciate the government regulating whether or not it's ok to burn firewood to keep WARM.

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A neighbor, within the city of Puyallup, has a wood burning stove in his work shed that has an overwhelming bad smell. To what agency should this be reported? Thank you. [name]

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I agree that older wood stoves can be a major part of the current problem. I am concerned though that any new incentives would not be dealt out with any regard for those who have already put out the investment in a cleaner heating source. There by rewarding those who procrastinate and wait to be told to do something better for the environment. Perhaps there could be a program in place where things like pellets could be subsidized by giving a 50 dollar coupon for the purchase of a ton of pellets at any authorized retailer. This type of incentive could apply to other heat sources as well dependant on the replacement energy source. This would give everyone an incentive to contribute to cleaner air as opposed to only helping out those who to this point have refused to update their heating sources.

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expand tacoma power plan to assist homeowner purchase of ductless heat pump to all residents, subsidize low income purchase of air tight fireplace inserts, replace huge empty busses with small busses, park 4x4 code enforcement trucks, park police suv's, shut down parked locomotives, seems to me that all last winter seattle ran higher levels of particulates than tacoma. keep in mind that many people are in severe financial stress, help them to be as efficient as possible, code enforcement trucks and police suv's not good examples.

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Banning or severely limiting wood burning in Pierce County is as poorly conceived as it would be if Texas banned oil burning for heat and energy. Actually, it is stupid. The only excessive level of air pollution much of the time is county is not from the fireplaces of citizens burning wood in fireplaces and stoves for heating their homes or enjoying a cozy environment on a cold day. It is from the hot air of wasteful and intrusive bureaucratic entities that increasingly interfere with the lives and rights of citizens and result in useless and expensive pseudo solutions. How about banning cold damp northwest weather, it makes more sense. Besides, I like the CO2 of wood combustion - the massive amount green chlorophyll-containing plants we are blessed with turn it into more oxygen. Hey, why don't you ban green plants, too? The truth is that some of our community many need to use wood to burn in order to stay warm. Maybe you can ban them, too.

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I think anyone who has a wood stove needs to have a permit to burn first of all and anyone having a fireplace needs to have it cleaned yearly. It seems to me some people have their wood stoves going recreationally several times a week. When it's just one person in the neighborhood that is annoying enough but when it's more than one you almost choke going outside. Oftentimes you can see the smoke leaving their chimney and it is not rising high and dissipating it stays low and moves along in a wide stream at chimney level and if it is a one story shed etc that is not very high. If the smoke is not rising high and being carried away they should not be burning wood that day or evening. I don't really like having to closely regulate this activity but clearly the people doing it are oblivious and now it's a problem.

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In this economic environment, any heavy handed regulatory activity by Pierce County, state or federal government is ill advised. There are enough regulations already in place to guarantee that existing non certified stoves are slowly being replaced as they wear out. Forcing removal of older stoves or any other new regulatory scheme is going to cost every citizen money they can not afford. Pierce County Citizens can not afford more government intervention.

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If you require that people replace older less-efficient woodstoves, how do you know that someone is using an older woodstove without invading their privacy or violating their civil rights? What if they have a brand new super-efficient woodstove and they are just not using it properly or cannot afford the best choice for fuel?

If you are going to "require" people to upgrade their stoves and you are actually able to enforce whatever rules there are (from a financial perspective or from a manpower vs. scale of problem perspective), you had better be [expletive] sure that you properly compensate people. Wood stoves are as expensive or more expensive than regular furnaces because the good ones are built to last. Affordable woodstoves are junk and are not efficient burners. You may want to consider that the cost of corrective action is more than the cost of operating this agency.

The 2-cycle engines of weed-wackers and lawn mowers are the most inefficient and pollution causing machines in the modern era. I have read in many places that most of the air pollution in cities and suburban areas come from these machines---and EVERYONE has them. What's more is that you can smell the fuel when you are mowing. Cities in California are incentivizing people to move to high-efficiency electric battery mowers and weed-wackers by subsidizing trade-ins or rebates. Get rid of your old mower for a coupon towards Home Depot or Lowes Electric or Electric/Battery powered mowers. Look into this. Not only is the electricity cheaper than the gas used to mow lawns (you may want to provide brochures with the math--some MFRs of electric mowers do this already) but electric lawn equipment is SUPER QUIET as well.

You would be much more effective, efficient to target the VAST numbers of gas mower and weed-eater users than to go after the relatively few people still using wood for heat -- so they don't freeze to death during Winter.

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Because we have several neighbors who frequently use a stove or insert, I would favor either or both of your proposed solutions. I have one other idea that could be included as part of the enhanced enforcement solution, and that is to initiate a burn ban based on the rate of change in the air-quality index as opposed for waiting for it to reach a threshold level. Inversions are usually predicted, and during such times a burn ban could be initiated based on the rate in which air quality is worsening. In our neighborhood, calling attention to the problem, as you are doing, may also help. Thank you for addressing this problem.

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If something must be done, invoke a burn-ban on smoky sources during lengthy periods of atmospheric high pressure only. Don't ruin it for folks that treasure a family gathering around a cozy and aesthetically pleasing fire in the fireplace during the winter. You can educate people about how to minimize the generation of excess smoke, but to ban fireplaces is Nazi.

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As an elderly home owner with a fixed income, I can not afford large electric bills just to heat my house even enough to keep a couple rooms warm enough to survive. My wood stove is the only way I can keep my house warm enough to survive; otherwise, I would freeze. I realize burning wood causing air

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quality to reduce, but you must give and take. I have a certified stove and should be able to use it without an overly zealous authority for cleaner air imposing ridiculous restrictions on the poor and elderly. Your restrictions will only allow the rich to live in very well heated homes, while us poor have to live in one heated room of the house just to keep from freezing. Even your burn bans are ridiculous at times....when it's freezing outside, you have a burn ban. What logic is that? When it's raining and warmer, you allow burning.....

You guys have to give and take just like the rest of us. You can't impose very ridiculous restrictive laws for cleaner air without realizing that people are starving and people out here do have the money to spend to keep their homes constantly warm using only electricity or gas. I don't have gas and do not have electricity in my living room. You are forcing me to live in my bedroom all winter just because you want cleaner air???! Can you survive with your kids in one bedroom all winter???! Either you make electricity more cheap or stop imposing restrictive laws to disallow us from using our wood stoves....but don't force us to live less quality lives just because you want cleaner air. This should not be a one-sided situation....you must also give and take like the rest of us.

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First of all, when the power goes out, mostly happening in the winter storms, I have WOOD, a renewable resource, to burn for warmth and cooking. To my way of thinking, I am prepared. The government isn't and won't be warming me, I am SELF sufficient. I have lived here all my life, 58 years, and the weather inversions don't last that long, we have a constant westerly air flow, moving the air through the area and you know this. Your agency is in business to make yourself relevant. Lately, you apply burn bans more than in the past. The pollution levels you complain about now are far lower than levels in the not so distant past and your goal of zero pollution can't be obtained, unless you control all aspects of everyone's lives. One of the steps you are using is to pick out one of the smaller groups of people, wood burners and demonizing them to the rest of the herd, next will be oil burning furnaces. You claim to want to remove all the OLD non certified wood stoves, but as I see it you will not stop there, as then you will need something else to justify your budget expenses. What is certified to you and once certified always certified, or will that change at the next meeting? Who will be doing the certifications, a wood burning hater, you know that's a possibility. You, ideally, want everyone required to pay your RATES for government controlled power, having only government deciding what that power and rates will be. You already do this with garbage in some locals. Instead of encouraging citizens to be more self-reliant, you seem to be forcing people to be required to only use "CLEAN government" power, as you put it, and in the same breath you want everyone to have a 72 hour pack ready for problems the government can't handle right away. Which is it? You talk about particulates in the air being breathed in during higher wood stove usage times, these particulates, when coming in contact with the moisture in the air, and yes it is always moist in the air, become heavier falling to the ground to mix into the soil as a benefit, rain, yet you allow people to smoke... And why don't you just say you are planning to use infrared scanning devices to enforce your new hoped-for regulations? Are you afraid if people translate your flowery language, they might not want to have enforcers roaming the streets, looking into all our houses? Where are the wood burning citizens on your panel? What does "adequate source of heat", mean to you? I'll bet it means something different to someone using wood. What is your definition of "excess smoke"? Fires usually smoke more at first until they get hot, when will you make the determination? Are you going to control my finances so when I decide to use my fireplace instead of paying for higher priced electricity in the winter, you will be there to make the economical decision for me? There it is, a permit requirement, and only so we can notify citizens better of a burn ban. What a joke, and how much will this cost? What is a non wood heating device, highly taxed government heat? It's hard to tax someone who goes out and chops his own wood to use to heat his house. Incentives? Home inspections? Subsidies? You mean taking more of my money to hire you and your people to give

the rest of my money to someone else in the name of healthy air. That stinks. Once again all designed to keep your checks flowing to you. Would this be going on if there was no money involved? I think not! Stay out of my life! This used to be a free country! You say this will be posted, we shall see....

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First, your post card face is very misleading. You portray a grim outlook. I have never seen chimneys put out such thick black smoke just from a "wood" fire. Second, your little Pie chart is very nice. While I would concede that during the winter, more fire places are used, what percent is real wood particles and what percent is chemical? Break that down and then ban fire logs, and other non real ,with no fillers, made to look like "wood" products. Stop trying to ban fire places, wood burning stoves, fire pits. There is no common sense left in the whole lot of you. Stop running around screaming the sky is falling, the sky is falling. Do real science and real investigation , and real solutions!

A few "scared " people will always ruin it for the majority! We have way too many complicated rules and regulations about fire places already! Stop and think this through, we need fewer regulations, not more!

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We use a wood stove for emergency heat when the power goes out. This usually happens in the winter months and there is no other way to have heat in our home. Restricting us from having heat in an emergency is not reasonable, responsible nor constitutional. Often the storms that take out our power also make travel hazardous, so leaving home to find heat is not an option. Exemptions for emergencies must be part of any plan going forward.

An incentive program for replacement of older wood stoves seems like a good way to start improvement. The last program was too small to be successful. I suggest a property tax deduction for replacement costs available ot all homeowners.

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1. reported open burning of creosole-wood pallets, forcing us to run inside our house & shut the windows (sometimes though the smoke is already in the house); the fire dept responds, but all they can do is put out the fire or make those neighbors put out the fire. There is no enforcement of the law, no citations given. The fire dept is the first, and only responder (sheriff's dept can't be bothered). Give the fire dept the power to issue the citations.

2. What good will "New Rules" about wood burning, without enforcement, be worth ? What about those neighbors around us with wood burning stoves that spew so much dark, black smoke, that to walk near their houses you have to hold your breath or cough your head off !

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We need to keep our house warm because my husband has cancer. Our natural gas furnace is very old and natural gas is very expensive. We suppliment heating our home with the wood heat. We already have burn bans typically on the coldest days in the winter. It concerns me that you would consider adding more restrictions and laws and penalties to an already strict policy. Please consider people that have limited incomes and those that are elderly or sick before adding more restrictions. Thank you!

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There is only one way to eliminate wood burning and that would be give people a cheaper way other then wood.Bottom line is that in these times the problem is only going to get worse as people are looking for ways to save money .

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Certified wood stoves are great and for the most part are the only thing sold today. There are certainly less efficient stoves still being used, but are steadily being used less and less. Just let them die off naturally. Using wood stoves during cold dry spells are the best use of energy resources. If would be better and more effective if people stopped driving their extra cars for a few days. We don't need

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another government agency, along with the cost of enforcement, to hassle the relatively few people who enjoy wood heat. Mankind has lived for centuries with wood smoke, don't make life anymore complicated than it already is!!

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There are a few reasons people like myself burn a fire. In my home that was built in 1963 is equipped with an oil furnace, and as we all know the average price of heating oil is around \$3.79 per gallon and my tank holds 300 gallon, to make it through the winter I would have to fill it now and again in January. We are currently out of oil and in no position to fill it. We have considered converting to natural gas however the cost of that is around \$7800 which is the least of my worries. If we had that kind of savings we would get our roof replaced. My wife and I are both employed but our income has dropped about \$12,000 per year since we purchased our home. However we did purchase a new wood burning stove in the fall of 2005. if there are any sort of government programs that will help us convert to a natural gas system please let us know. Thank you.

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I can't afford to replace my inserts. I seldom use them anyhow. Also, I enjoy recreational fires once in while for roasting hot dogs and stuff.

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Bottom line - I often burn wood in my fireplace (no inserts) because it is far less expensive than running my electric baseboard heat. I also often don't know when a burn ban is in affect. Regular communication should be everywhere when burn bans are both active & cancelled - banner at the bottom of tv screen during local news, online newspapers, local radio air announcements & on their websites, e-mail sent from electric companies, etc. Create tv ads that illustrate the health risks (make a statement like seatbelt or smoking commercials).

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I wholeheartedly endorse improving air quality in Pierce County. But, it shouldn't solely be during the "wintertime" as your postcard would suggest.

This summer in particular, every week, someone in the neighborhood is burning garbage and/or using a fire pit. With warm weather, everyone wants to open their windows to enjoy the fresh air, but the smoke has been overwhelming to the point of causing health concerns--house fills with smoke and odor. At one point in the evening the effect of the smoke was like that of a house fire with the amount of smoke and odor. Upon reporting the situation to the fire department, their solution was to send a truck out to drive the neighborhood. Their conclusion--they couldn't smell anything driving around (they didn't get out of their truck, nor did they come to my door and experience the smoke and odor--still strong at the point they drove by).

Other neighbors have recently starting using outdoor fire pits as well, and the odor and smoke is hazardous to their neighbors. Even with windows close the smell is overwhelming. With the oncoming cold weather, neighbors are utilizing their fireplaces and wood burning stoves which also creates smoke in the area, but not to the extent that outdoor fire pits and illegal burning of garbage does. Their needs to be some control over outdoor fires and the effect these fires have on the environment and humans health. Fire pits in a metropolitan area are just plain inconsiderate and irresponsible when a large number of people live in such close proximity. Fire pits make no sense unless their is a lot of acreage between houses and neighbors. I expect it at a campground, but not in the city limits.

Can smoke from fireplaces be controlled in a similar way that corporate polluters utilize devices to control pollutants? Other than installing an electric, gas, or alternative energy insert in fireplaces there should be a solution to controlling smoke and pollutants from wood burning fireplaces. Burn bans don't seem to have a significant effect in relation to fireplaces, and enforcement would seem to be unrealistic. Hope that the county can come up with some reasonable and realistic solutions to improving air quality

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in Pierce County.

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I found it interesting that even though the post card I received mentioned reducing pollution from wood burning, industry transportation and other sources, it seems to me that you are targeting homeowners. Do you have any idea what a headache you would create by forcing homeowners to comply with your new rules, not to mention the monetary end of things. With the cost of power going up, up, up and in this economy, many more people are turning to wood burning devices as their main power source. I doubt that the "incentives" or "subsidies" would cover the cost of changing out these stoves or inserts. I also think forced removal of these devices might become a legal issue! As far as pellet stoves and the like, they might be too much for the smaller house. There are more things that need to be considered in your proposal to make it equitable for everyone.

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I have COPD so any effective means to reduce wood smoke in Tacoma has my enthusiastic support. We live in an area of Tacoma in which a number of homes were built in the 60s and 70s. I suspect many have old wood stoves which are used in the colder months. I also suspect that they have conventional central heating but the owners prefer the wood stoves for economic reasons. We can't open our bedroom window even a crack on some cold nights when there is a temperature inversion. The smoke outside is very bad at times. Some even burn garbage in their stoves by the smell of it. It's bad. Please help.

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Our health is the paramount issue here, and it needs to be protected. Certainly it is a good idea to recall any wood burning device which is not efficient. My concern with your ideas is that it will end up inflicting additional expenses in the form of permits and upgrades to a sector of the public which could be largely low income (many of us are low income these days). A financial hardship could cause lack of cooperation. Perhaps incentives for upgrades or some type of assistance could be considered for those who meet guidelines. Otherwise, I say go for it--do whatever you can to limit the pollution to our poor old air. Thank you for asking.

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How would this be enforced? On the days wood burning is banned people in my neighborhood do it anyway? Their excuse, it's our only source of heat. That is such BS. They just don't want to pay for the gas/Elec to heat their homes. Law does not come and stop them, I've lived here almost seven years. You want clean air then enforce the "no burn days", no excuses. It's time to check the houses violating the rules and for the law enforcement to stop turning a blind eye to the problem. Also, who is enforcing it anyway? The Fire Department or the Police Dep.? They blame each other.

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I strongly suspect this "Clean Air" initiative is run and funded by our utility companies, in a poorly veiled attempt to deter using alternative sources of heat in homes, and has very little intention of cleaning up industrial pollution at all.

We NEED to use our wood stove to survive the increasingly harsh winters here. We, like many of our neighbors, cannot afford both rent AND a \$700-plus dollar utility bill each winter month. Baseboard heat is not capable of heating our poorly insulated rental unit anyway, and our landlords cannot afford to upgrade in this market.

We run our stove responsibly, do not burn painted or manufactured wood, and always strive for an efficient burn. Making it illegal to heat our home this way would lead to us becoming homeless, one way or another. Have you ever tried moving in Winter with a "Failure To Pay/Broken Lease" following you? Try it before you outlaw sensible home heating.

Thank you for your time and consideration. - Tacoma Resident and Stove User

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I think you should use both approaches: remove uncertified stoves when a house is sold, and increase number of places/times burn bans are publicized. For instance, a lot of apartments built in the '70s, '80s and '90s have fireplaces, and managers could be emailed in a blast when a ban is on. (In my neighborhood I have several friends, ecology-minded and all, who burn wood or pellets. I could send addresses!!) I have an old wood stove in my basement that I never use, as well as two fireplaces that I do not use. I would be willing to remove the stove on sale of my house or sooner if someone else took it out; it is very heavy!

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To: Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

Wood smoke pollution here in Northeast Tacoma often gets real bad from the Fireplaces, wood stoves, wood burning inserts and most recently the outdoor wood fire pits people are setting up in their backyards which I do not believe need any kind of permit. No one pays any attention to the burn bans any way as they are never enforced. The smoke from all the homes lower on the hillside blow right up to the top of hill and smokes us out.

I am not sure what happens on the tide flats, but when the wind blows out of the south it is not unusual to find large particles from the smoke stacks of the businesses on the tide flats. We hear it when one of the companies blows their smoke stack and it gets really loud and is usually done late at night and often wakes many in the neighborhood up and I believe is one of the major offenders of putting out particulars that we find on the patio furniture.

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We pay more for homes with fireplaces and now you want to stop us from using them. That is unsat. I work at the Port of Tacoma and the amount of pollution from trucks and factories is ever present and visable. So stop picking on us home owners that use our fireplaces 3 or 4 times month in the cooler seasons.

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I am a person who is greatly adversely affected by air pollution, the two worst types of which are cigarette smoke in the air and fireplace smoke. Already the fireplace smoke is becoming a problem, and I support ANY measures necessary to enforce burn bans and to get rid of excessive smoke-producing wood stoves, etc. We are no longer living in an age where we live on farms and ranches and our nearest neighbors are 2-5 miles away. Now, we often live in places where we have 50 or 100 neighbors within 100 yards (as in the case of large apartment complexes equipped with fireplaces). PLEASE DO WHATEVER YOU CAN ABOUT THIS PROBLEM. Thank you.

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As we all know, times are tough right now. My husband and I have been living in our apartment for just about two years. It gets very cold in our vaulted ceiling home and it doesn't have insulation under the stairs. My husband is unemployed and has been on and off since 2008. When using our base heater upstairs and the wall heater downstairs it drove up our heating bill immensely. This is something we just cannot afford. We were planning on getting a stack of wood on our patio to keep the apartment warm for the winter. Please do not enforce a no wood burn ban. Burning wood helps us keep the bill cost down while keeping us warm for the duration of winter. I'm just slightly above the low income bracket but I still feel low income because of living paycheck to paycheck. We need to burn wood because using our heaters is not an option for us. Thank you for taking the time to read my entry.

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I believe having enforcement on the week-ends is in order, as we have observed outdoor burning in the Orting valley numerous times and called the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency only to find it closed... On another occasion the outdoor burning did occur on a week-day and we called to report it after the

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valley was totally engulfed in smoke. The burning continued throughout that day even after we reported it!!! Maybe hiring more responsive enforcement staff may be in order...

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In my opinion, you and this whole subject is - wasting our \$\$/taxes. Please get a job ... that doesn't drain taxpayers pockets! This state is broke and there is NOT a problem with me or my neighbor burning wood in our homes...regardless which type of burning device we may have!! Wood burning has been with our planet since trees and lightning have been our planet - humans and all other creatures flourished and will continue to with or without you and your organization....please go away and GET A REAL JOB!

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I am NOT in support of more government regulation in any form of private citizens and property. I am however in favor of cleaner air and environment. I would support any program that used incentives and education that would encourage people to make responsible environmental decisions for themselves. Incentives to turn your neighbors in however, smacks of Nazi Germany. In todays economy, heating your home with wood is often a very necessary necessity.

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We live in an older home. It doesnt have updated heating, and we have a wood burning fire place. During the winter, it gets FREEZING COLD in our home. We can have all the heaters running in our home, and its still super cold. We always use our fireplace, and we need it especially because we have an infant and toddler to take care of too. We need our home to stay warm. Of course we limit the use of our fireplace until it gets very cold. I think it should be up to the citizens to regulate their own sources of heat for their homes. Please don't force our family to be cold. Thanks for your time.

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I have a neighbor that burns garbage in his garage all year round, and because the wind almost always blows from the South, the smoke goes into my backyard. So most of the time when I would like to go out and enjoy my backyard, I can't because of the terrible smoke and smell. He is not heating his house, because the smokestack is in his garage. He is very annoying.

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I just received your mailing entitled "Burn Wood? - We need to talk". The front of the post card sized mailer shows a picture of homes emitting wood smoke. I have seen the detailed reports for the non-attainment area and wood smoke is not the top polluter. It is motor vehicle emissions. So why do you target the group which has the least ability to pay for improvements rather than business? It's because the business are the ones that wield the political power. Also I and every registered driver in Pierce County already pay to pass vehicle emissions in order to register their cars but people in Thurston County do not. Emissions from adjacent counties most certainly effect the air quality in Pierce County. You should be bringing legal action against Thurston county for it's contributed emissions. You should also target business like: Interstate Distributor Co. 110707 21St. Ave. Ct. S Tacoma 98444. They run their diesel powered refrigerated semi containers overnight while sitting detached from the trucks in their yard. This is directly across from a residential area. They should be electrically powered only. LeMay Inc 4111 192nd ST E. Tacoma, WA 98446. How many of their vehicles are at least propane powered just like Tacoma towing? In addition, a significant source of air pollution comes from lawn equipment such as residential mowers. I recently looked into buying a propane powered mower (Lehr brand with Colman

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Green Key tool canisters for safety) but found out that LeMay does accept the recyclable propane cylinders. They should be required to do so.

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I think the old stoves and inserts need to be removed because I am sensitive to smoke. There are some nights I can't even take my dog out to the backyard because of the smell of smoke in the air already and it hasn't even gotten cold yet. I have found soot on my furniture outside. I'm not the only person with these allergies.

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I think you should just leave people alone and let them live their lives. People have been using fires and fireplaces since the dawn of time. If all a family can afford for heat is a fireplace or a wood stove you need to just back off and mind your own business. It may be all they have to keep their family warm! Busybody organizations such as yourselves are the reason the middle class is experiencing a shift in stature -- and not a shift for the better! Requiring families to modify or exchange (read spend money they don't have!) perfectly good fireplaces and/or wood stoves just so you can make a buck for the businesses involved in your scheme (read Puget Sound Energy, Stove & Fireplace Shops) is deplorable. All it is is just another drain on our tax dollars by having "fireplace enforcement" patrols! I am disgusted by the amount of money (read MY tax dollars) this would even take to enforce. Why not propose filtration devices on chimneys -- installed at YOUR expense if you're so concerned about air quality? Why not propose a DECREASE in energy costs in the winter rather than increases! Clearly price gouging is involved by the upper class trying to force the middle class into the poverty realm (read rich get richer, poor get poorer). Don't ban something you probably know nothing about. This is a knee jerk reaction to propaganda fed to us by the media and the government about "global warming" and "fine particle pollution". I hate to tell you, but global warming happens every 24 hours -- sun comes up, sun goes down. Fine particle pollution happens every day -- and engines are the biggest contributors, not fireplaces! How about you go bang on the door of the automobile industry and see what happens (no, really, see how far you get...)! I think you should really rethink your approach to this "problem" because you aren't going to be very successful in a country where we are taught life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. p.s. I am going to go throw this postcard in the fireplace now, thanks for the kindling!

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In my neighborhood people burn all types of things in their back yards and the smell is awful. I think we have problems year-round.

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My household uses a wood burning insert to heat our house as a supplement to natural gas heat in an effort to keep our energy costs down. We have taken reasonable steps to weatherize the house to increase efficiency but this has not improved the temperature in the winter to be able to afford the energy bill without using the woodstove. This is an absolute necessity for us and would be negatively impacted financially if burn bans or a mandate to remove the woodstove were put in place. I appreciate the concern for the air quality, but this is not the time to make such a change that would drastically impact households financially. I challenge the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to produce a more creative plan to create an incentive for the people in Pierce County to voluntarily help the air quality in our county instead of create mandates that can harm households that rely on wood burning out of necessity. Thank you.

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It is cheaper to use the fireplace. I have electric heat and that can get expensive to use. We are in our mid 60's and can't afford high electricity bills. We will follow the burn ban, but hope that it isn't for days at a time.

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I don't heat with wood. Some of my neighbors do. I have asthma. We don't need any more regulations.

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We already have too many.

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This is a bad time to impose new regulations. Eliminating pscleanair.org would be a good move to save the tax payers needed relief. I will vote against any politician that votes to move this project forward.

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Permitting isn't a reasonable thing to do. It is only a tax if a fee is attached to it. Our existing rules seem to be fine, a risk from wood smoke is just that a risk. Every thing we do in life can have a risk level attached to it. When we have a power outage or fuel (Nat Gas) supply issue the public needs to be ready to help themselves. Just like the 3-5 day supply of food and water after an earthquake a supply of heating is also a need. In the past I worked in the Pierce County Office of Emergency Mang. (30 years) we had areas of P.C. without Power for up to 10 day's many times. This was after several wind storm and Ice storms, not to mention earthquakes. This is why I think the existing burn rules are working

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I support enforcing burn bans as stated; communicate more, use better technologies to enforce and begin to issue permits. I also support the removal of uncertified wood stoves in the Tacoma city limits. The number of wood stoves combined with Tacoma's density creates an impossible situation. It would be great if you could offer replacement funds and a interest free loan program to entice folks to change. I swapped out my wood stove on a previous program and the support provided to make the change made all the difference in the world.

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I think the agency should concentrate more on transportation being our main cause of air pollution. As a society, we need to think about what we are doing to the air every time we jump in our car. I think the education and funding needs to be spent on providing carpool availability, environment friendly vehicles and public transportation. Most people use transportation. Most people do not burn wood, so it would make sense to target something that the majority of the people take part in to get the most effective result.

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I am in favor of clean air, however, I am not in favor of these recommendations. Having policies that encourage updating heating with cleaner air options is the best approach. The best approaches include incentives for upgrading equipment which I fully support. Using tax dollars to enforce burn bans or requiring removal of stoves is in my opinion a poor use of funds and a violation of the right of citizens to choose the best options for themselves. There are some cases in which wood burning provides a free source of heat to people who would struggle otherwise to pay heating bills. Clean air is important but not at the expense of individual freedom or for those with limited heating options that prefer not to rely on government assistance to be in compliance.

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This policy is absolutely ridiculous. I look out over the Port of Tacoma and see particulates floating up into the air from the numerous smokestacks dotting the port. And, I'm supposed to believe that wood stoves are the main culprit for air pollution? That's crazy. On cold days maybe I could see a slight increase, but the main polluters are not individual residence but the factories and businesses. Why should we have to register and probably pay some stupid fee to burn? I don't get this at all. I want to see the research of how they determined that wood burning stoves are tipping the scales of air pollution. Show me the breakdown of how it compares to the factories on the port. With Tacoma utilities being so expensive, what other choices do we have to keep warm? This doesn't sound like a solution at all. Just a way for the government to have more control of what we do in our homes.

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I can agree with cleaner air, but when you start talking about potentially increasing the cost of families heating their houses, I think you need to start looking at a different solution. Make public transportation

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more viable, reduce costs of natural gas, make natural gas more available. There are a number of more difficult solutions, so why take the easiest and most costly to families whose income makes it more affordable to heat with wood. I would also agree with requiring better functioning wood burning stoves for household heating, but to take away heating for family homes, especially during the colder times seems inhumane.

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I think that this is even MORE government intrusion in our lives and a way to keep people from obtaining warmth if there is an emergency. If you control all the means of warmth and cooking, then you control us. NO THANKS!!! and all in the name of "environmental" causes. We see right through your green agenda. Air quality today is better now than it has been in over 40 years so how about if you leave us the hell alone! AND I don't appreciate you sending me junk mail (which kills trees and fills up the landfills) telling me we need to talk. I'm going to go outside and BURN my big brother post card you sent me.

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I dont think it a big problem to many rules.

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I live in a cul-de-sac neighborhood of homes on a hill. Most (if not all) of the homes have wood burning fireplaces or stoves. When all of these are going, the air does get thick with smoke. For most households, this is not their only source of heat except when the electricity is out. HOWEVER, the WORST pollution is when some folks burn their household garbage in their fireplaces or stoves. Is this allowed? I've never known. It's difficult to breathe outside when the garbage is being burned. Please consider putting a restriction against burning household garbage in the proposed measures. Thank you.

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I would prefer that wood burning and coal burning devices be banned with the exception of power outages and state declared emergencies. If that's not possible, then smoke free areas need to be created so those who suffer from lung diseases can breath easier. A one mile radius around schools and hospitals would be a good start. I would also change state law so that communities can require stricter regulations or a complete ban if those communities desire it. I would eliminate the sales tax on the sale and installation on new construction and retrofit new gas burning fireplaces. I would give enforcement power to police, fire department as well as the current state agency. I would require those with smoke complains filed against them to fix the issue to the satisfaction of the one filling a complaint.

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**THIS IS AN URGENT HEALTH ISSUE ! BAN WOOD BURNING. REMOVE "IMMEDIATELY" ANY and/or ALL WOOD STOVES and INSERTS. DO NOT GAMBLE WITH MY LIFE and THE LIFE OF OTHERS !!!**

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With increased multi-density housing (several apartment buildings) in my residential area (Parkland) built within the last decade and one-half, hundreds of old growth fir and cedar (well over 100 ft tall) were removed, which formerly filtered not only the AIR from pollutants caused by traffic, industry, both commercial planes and JBLM's aircraft, but SOUND from those sources as well--and of course, residential wood smoke was then only a miniscule part of that air pollution.

I fortunately was able to 're-forest' my own yard 15 years ago. I chose evergreens because there is absolutely no anti-pollutant benefit from broad leaf deciduous trees in Winter when they are leafless. My own 15 YOA fir and cedar trees today are from 20 - 50 ft tall, not nearly tall enough to help pollution on a broad scale. But I do notice great improvement from them in my own yard with no lingering 'odors', cleaner air, and just as before removal of the older taller trees' (22 ea. from behind my yard, each +/- 150 ft tall), buffered sounds from traffic, industry and aircraft by my young trees.

Absolutely none of the older fir and cedar trees removed were replaced with new evergreens when any

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of the homes or apartments in my neighborhood were initially built, which was a horrible error and lack of foresight on the part of Pierce County's planning after zone changing. Older trees removed for 'progress' were not just standing there, but were filtering the air and buffering sounds for us all.

We're all paying today for this mistake and where possible, I would suggest that new evergreen (preferably fir and cedar) trees be planted BEFORE innocent residents are asked to expensively change their residential heating systems. There are 'pocket' areas of land owned by Pierce County whose maintenance dept. could plant new evergreen trees, and some streets are wide enough to allow Pierce County to plant them at roadside rights-of-way. Several residents have room on their own properties for new evergreens and a small tax break for planting them could be offered to encourage this.

Washington is, after all, supposed to be the 'Evergreen State'. We should all work together to keep it that way because evergreen trees really are the cleanest, cheapest, and most effective natural way to at least partially solve current air and sound pollution problems.

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This is another example of government intrusion into the lives of tax paying American citizens. Now government is looking at permits and registration for wood stoves, removal of uncertified stoves, burn ban police.....are you kidding me? You people have too much time on your hands, who determines unhealthy levels of pollution build up and how big a risk to people's health are we talking about? I would love to know how many complaints come into the county offices from citizens complaining about the health effect of smoke from wood stoves. More government regulation from non-elected officials that cost home owners, industry, and transportation thousands of dollars is not the answer. Try and justify your existence and that of Department of Ecology through education not regulation. Thank you.

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There are several neighbors who burn wood when it is cold. I do not believe that it is their only means of warmth. The smoke often is held down by low lying clouds/rain and it tends to hang around. I have suffered from asthma in the past and try not to go outside very much when they are burning. I do not know what kind of stoves are used or what kind of wood is burned. I only know that it can be harder to breathe when they burn. I am fortunate that my asthma has not acted up in years. I pity anyone in the area who is not so fortunate.

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I have lived in Puyallup all of my life. Your enforcement ideas are typical of Pierce County Government. As I grew up here in the rural area we burned a wood stove for heat during the fall/winter for heat. I live in a semi rural area now and burn wood for heat during the fall/winter for additional heat. I can't even burn my brush anymore. Go find something else to do! The prevailing winds bring air from California and the other counties in our area and add to our issues. If you want to replace my insert with a new unit free of charge and it works {delivers the same or more BTU for wood burned} that's fine with me.

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One of my comforting pleasures is having a wood fire in my fireplace on cold &/ or rainy &/or snowy &/or blustery evenings for 2 or 3 hours. I like the cheery warmth and I like tending the fire and I like sitting beside it for my aching back. I just like looking at it. It would be a big disappointment to me not to be able to do this.

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Just enforce the burn bans when conditions aren't right for burning. Communicate more when burn bans are in effect.

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I think you need to stop forcing your liberal policies down our throats!

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My family has a wood burning stove. I have no idea if it is "certified". It was in the home when I bought it. I believe our home was built in the 70's. We have electric baseboard heat. It seems cold in the house

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in the winter, even when the heat is on. Heating the house in the cold months is so expensive we often build fires to help keep costs down, as well as to actually be warm. I share the concern about pollution, but am not excited about being cold and the financial hardship tied to rising energy costs. We are in survival mode and simply cannot afford to upgrade our home.

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Are you going to pay my electric bill? Sorry I can not afford to not burn wood to keep my family warm in the winter. Luckily I'm getting my wood for free. We are in a economic crisis people, and it is worse than back in the 1920's. Leave people alone. The people are doing what they have to do to survive... Want to change things: Force companies to bring back jobs and quit sending our raw materials over seas. Including our trees.

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I completely agree with both solutions being offered. In addition, enforcement should be increased. A low-cost method of enforcement could be volunteer patrols, similar to or incorporated with "neighborhood watch" type programs.

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Wood stoves are an important alternate energy source and should not be severely restricted.

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I find the thought of this absolutely ridiculous! So, to eliminate one type of pollution you (government) want to encourage another. Wood is about as natural as you can get....so what....burn up MORE oil?! crazy! why not force automobile manufacturers to make vehicles that get a MINIMUM of 40 MPG! If they were doing it 30 years ago they should be able to do far better now. That would help the pollution problem a lot more than cracking down on home owners! Bottom line is the government just sees dollar signs. You can't tax the purchase of wood...so of course...force citizens to buy something you can tax!...clearly it's all about revenue ...not actual interest in issues. What's most amazing to me is how many people you manage to scare into believing all of your lies! They fight for something believing that who they are siding with really cares. It's a sad state of things....watching all of our rights being stripped away!

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I agree that Pierce County should: enhance enforcement of burn bans and require the removal of old, polluting (uncertified) wood stoves and fireplace inserts. Seems that people burn because it's cheap. Whether they are heating their house or getting rid of wood waste. Provide incentives to heat house with other energy sources. Provide incentives to have material hauled to wood waste recyclers. Provide disincentive to burning... including charging a fee for burn permits (or if you do this already - increase the fee). Increase the promotion of alternatives to burning. Including that LRI accepts a truck load of yard waste for free. Have neighborhood chipping program (contract with local companies). Encourage neighbors to rent or buy their own chipper if they can't haul material to a facility. Again... provide incentives.

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I think better notifications on bans would be a start - not just the television but print newspapers and community notifications (get businesses to advertise them on their billboards). I also think there should be education - when is a good time to burn (wet day, windy day vs. stagnant air day). And talking about alternative sources of heat that are as cost-efficient as wood stoves.

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Hello, i was wondering where we can get the permit to have the wood burning fireplace. That is our source of heat, because our heating system is terrible and old and we dont want to risk turning it on...o and also how much is the permit... please answer back i would appreciate it. :) thank you,

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OK you goverment Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF GOVERNMENT TELLING ME

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WHAT TO DO!!!!!!!!!! How dare you tell me, a hard working, tax paying citizen of Pierce county, " We Need To Talk"! You know what, screw you! It is not the role of government to be concerned with me using my woodstove to heat my home. I have been using this appliance for years minding my own business and now you tell me that their may be 'More Enforcement" rules. Who do you people think you are. Do you not realize that you people in government even at your level are, DESPISED by a growing number of citizens? I am not alone in my contempt for your government which is supposed to be , of the people, by the people and for the people. YOU are supposed to be public servants and we the people let you govern us at our pleasure. I take offence at the inuendo that you know how to run my life better than myself. And on top of all this, it seems my hard earned tax dollars pays your salaries to have you meddling in my life? It seems that you are modeling your government after the hated King County Socialist republic. When is enough government regulation enough? I wish you people would just do your jobs to make county road repairs, and take care of the street lighting and, GET OUT OF MY LIFE AND WALLET!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I can already percieve your smug and arrogant musing as you read this message but I have gotten this off my chest what I think about your anticipated higher levels of encroachment into my freedoms. You asked for my thoughts, now you have them.

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Burning wood. The main problem with wood stoves, burning green wood and choking the exhaust which causes heavy smoke, ie. pollution. Let it burn hot, less smoke. I believe that most of the air quality problems come from traffic jams, cars and trucks idling or barely moving for what seems like hours , and wild fires in the forests. Not so much from residents with a campfire in their back yard. Fix the roads so traffic will flow. Use better methods of controlling forest fires.

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I think the pollution levels are fine currently. We don't need to be spending time and money in our current economic state on this. Removing stoves from a house will introduce further costs for the owner and even if you subsidize that cost the money will have to come from somewhere and I do not believe this to be in the best interests of Pierce County at this time. I do appreciate the efforts to keep our air clean and would normally support the endeavor. We should revisit this topic again once the economy improves. Sincerely,

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My neighbor burns garbage and yard waste. Who do I call in the evening or during weekends who will respond quickly and stop the illegal burning?

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I have burned wood for 20 years as i can afford it because i'm the guy folks call when they have wood they need removed and your programs are geared toward getting me to buy gas or other fuel i would love to have a new clean burning wood stove but that has never been on your agendas. if ya pull my old stove that leaves a fireplace that still smokes-- most of my neighbors only burn garbage in their stoves and fireplaces which is JUST GREAT TOO! I can't afford to put a heating system into this old house and have so far this year been using a small plate heater made in the USA (conservetec model HH1000) 450W it has so far heated half my house by itself ---you might buy those and give them away to folks as an alternative to year after year standing around wondering WHY NOBODY is taking you up on your other programs. i realize most of the organizations have a vested interest in selling nat gas and electricity but clean breathable air should be the focus.

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Please stop attacking the little guy who in alot of cases can barely make it as it is. Most peoples incomes cannot even afford to replace or upgrade there means of heating there house. Go after the big businesses first who you can actually see sending tons and tons of material into the air right out of there smoke stacks. This is like Al Gore telling us we are heating the air because of our cars and houses, when he flys Jets around poluting many times more and lives in a house that could power 40 homes. Refocus

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your efforts you are just going to put more burdens of these poor families in this bad economy that just dont need the stress now.

I just dont get it, dont you guys ever think of working on ways to repeal these silly laws instead of trying to make new ones every year? I know you need to keep your job so you need to look like you are being productive but this is getting ridiculous. Just let us live in peace. I want to pursue my right to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and not live in a police state.

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I don't burn wood; so I have no personal ax to grind. But what I believe Pierce County needs is to get government and environmental groups like this off the backs of the people. This is ridiculous and will not solve anything. We we have is a regulatory problem that stifles liberty and destroys industry and jobs. People who have been burning wood for years should have no obligation to spend thousands of dollars to upgrade their system.

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I don't know the laws on all of this, but I feel that each individual should have the right to choose what method they feel is most cost effective to heat their homes. With utility costs through the roof, one month gas heat is more expensive the next electricity is. The burn bans seem to be happening more and more frequently, we live in Washington state! Of course we are going to have plenty of days with bad air quality. I personally think this would be a horrible decision to spend tax dollars to enforce burn bans and regulate uncertified wood burning stoves. I received a post card in the mail and wanted to voice my opinion. Thank you for your time.

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Heating with wood and wood pellets in certified stoves is a clean, efficient and a cost-saving method of heating. It saves electricity and cuts expenses at a time when extra money is hard to come by. It is also an ascetic mood relaxer. I have lived in this area for decades. The air is cleaner than it has ever been. Don't mess with a good thing.

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In stead of drawing these pictures of residential homes with black smoke rising and connecting that to dirty air, have you thought of looking up high in sky and noticing the artifical cloud cover put there by the military, day afer day, harming peoples health, wrecking gardens, polluting the water etc. I could go on- but I think (hope) you get my point. How about let's talk about multinational corporation off shoreing manufacturing to countries that have next to no environmental guildlines- Why aren't we boycotting products made in unsafe polluting environments: you know things have a tendency to change when the profit margin is threatened.

It must be obvious that I have a problem with the U.N. and global cabals putting out this type of propaganda- put the blame where it belongs, not on back of people who spend the majority of their time eeking out living. How about if the ad looked something like: Note to international corporations, bankers, corrupt governments- we the people want products made by persons who are treated fair, with a living wage, in clean working environments, we want you to pay your fair share of taxes on every penny you earn, no more bailouts or fiat money, abolish the Federal Reserve (private banking cabal) and insist that congress handle our money. We are sick of all corruption. You know if you were to print the bold face truth and you got fired, that should tell something.

Anyway- stop blaming the average joe on the street and put the blame where it belongs. Have a nice day

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Several years ago we had a Jotul wood stove installed and use it occasionally for pleasure of having a wood burning fire in our home. We buy our wood from Safeway or other responsible dealers. Our stove is`also a backup in a power emergency. I oppose your attempts to restrict our use of our stove because I think you are edging toward banning their use completely.. It would help if you had an efficient system

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of notifying us of a burn ban. Right now it is hard to find that info. I understand the need to be more responsible in controlling air pollution but I oppose any attempt to ban the use of wood stoves and forcing citizens to replace them with some other means.

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Why don't you guy stop telling people what to do? I know that is difficult for some people, but just leave people alone.

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Haven't you socialists done enough? I know, hard to tax and regulate and control the people who rely on it because its cheaper than using the government controlled energy providers.

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In 2010 we leveraged the Federal Tax credit to purchase a new wood burning fireplace insert to replace a pellet stove. Our primary interest was to have a heat source in the event of a power outage since our house is all electric. We were new to Pierce county and were unaware of the air quality issues at the time. Shortly after purchasing the wood burning stove, we learned of the air quality issues. At this time I am confused about the message being delivered by this organization, since I'm not sure if you're speaking to me because I have a new efficient wood burning stove, or if you are talking to everyone that may at one time or another burn wood as a heat source. My recommendation is that you better define your audience, and help us understand who it is you are speaking to. Casual users? Primary source of heat users? Non EPA certified heat source users? Who exactly is the audience of the message you are trying to deliver?

In addition, I find it a contradiction that I can go out and buy a new wood burning stove and receive a significant Federal tax credit, and yet it is a problem in my specific area. I purchased the stove from a local retailer in Tacoma, and there was no mention of EPA qualifications or particular air quality issues. Perhaps a solution is to reach out to retailers and require that they inform the consumer prior to new purchases. Hope my feedback/suggestions are of some use. Thanks.

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can't attend your meetings for i am working. tell me how i can tell if the insert is certified?

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I think you have it wrong. The problem is the illegal burners. If you patrol and control the county you wouldn't have the problem you have. I burn the North Idaho Log that burns virtually particulate free. If you could somehow give rebates or discounts to the log buyers that would give people a nice incentive. I do believe you are too strict on the limits.

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The burn bans and car emissions standards are enough. We don't need any more rules or regulations! Especially with regard to burning wood in a fireplace or stove. Stop the nonsense!

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I am a wood stove owner,homeowner and tax payer and find this "committee" to be a sad way of using hard working tax payers money during a time a drastic budget cuts to "regulate" and punish those same hardworking/ tax paying citizens. Another way to make citizens pay all your "administrative" costs just so we can heat our homes. I live in America, a country that is suppose to be free and I have the right to burn wood to heat my home FREELY.

Man has been burning wood since the beginning of time and NOW the air quality is bad because of this? The air quality is beyond blaming wood stove use- big industries, that car you drive to your committee meetings etc... If your going to have a committee at least be a useful and contributing committee- go help the children and families in the community that are going hungry or the elderly that have nobody to care for them. Shame on your "committee" I have a right to heat my home without being punished. Your committee needs to re-evaluate it's thinking and shift your energy to industries that burn fossil

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fuels. Stop trying to nickel and dime the people of this county with your petty "fees" and "regulations". I am for better air quality, but regulating people heating their homes during a season when this state is the coldest is outrageous.

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Seems like there`s too many agencies with too many people trying to keep busy so they can keep their jobs to me. The Pierce County Health Dept already made it their goal to abolish smoking in taverns and clubs and to what REAL benefit? Most people that work in those smoke and those who didn`t smoke worked there by choice. And now this? I`ve lived here in Lakewood all my life (45 years) and both houses have wood burning fireplaces. We hardly burn wood even if it`s cold as we have gas heat (it`s kinda inconvenient), but if we wanted to, now there`s a burn ban cause someone deems it unhealthy to the world? You`re kidding right? What`s next, banning vehicles that burn gas and diesel? There`s a million cars on the road. Where`s our freedoms and liberties going in the USA?! Governments too big, time to save the tax payers money and downsize about 50 percent, starting with the unessentials!

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I do not think that it is the job of government to regulate citizens as to whether they use a certified/more expensive wood stove or an older stove. In this economy the last thing we need is to burden citizens that are in a tight spot already using wood stoves they already own to be forced by there local government to have to go buy a new stove. People use wood heat to keep there heating bills down. Regulating this area will cause financial hardship for many citizens.

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You cannot force pre-existing homes to change or upgrade heating systems unless you are willing to pay for the change and any increase in heating costs untill the home is sold. Of course some animals don`t mind forcing grandparents or poor people to slowly starve to death by spending more money they do not have on heating!

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I absolutely do not support or agree with any type of restrictions or ban against anyone who chooses to use their wood burning fire place to heat their home or for whatever use they choose. No individual should have their right to use their wood burning fire place for whatever purpose they choose to be violated for any reason!

This whole concept of having or developing a "Clean Air Task Force" is just another way for certain individuals or organizations who don't care about individual liberty to try and violate individual rights! The bigger picture here is that a lot people who have fire places tend to use it as a cheaper more inexpensive way to heat their homes especially during the colder times of the year. With the rise in cost of every day living expenses and especially energy rate increases for natural gas and electricity individuals who are already struggling in this extremely bad economy do not need another burden placed on themselves and their families!

Also having a wood burning fire place allows an individual to be more self reliant knowing that they have a way to heat their home or cook a meal under any type of situation or emergency or worse case scenario. An individual doesn't have to solely rely on the typical means of heating their homes or cooking like every other individual who doesn't have access to a fire place in their home or place where they live. The government tends to want individuals to be totally reliant on their developed plat forms for taking care of a individuals basic daily needs such as having access to water in their home for personal hygiene and cooking which the government could take over the water companies and stop the delivery of water to your home for any reason if they so choose to in order to purposely create hardships for an individual if they don't like anything you do. If an individual had a water well or lived by a water source they could be self reliant and always have a way to get water even if the government

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choose to shut off the water to their home.

These are extreme examples but could happen one day so the more self reliant an individual can be the better off they are and having access to a fire place with out any restrictions or regulations is a key part to that self reliance! Not to mention as well whats the point of even having a fire place if for any reason your not allowed to use it which is just another communistic approach to trying to control an individual and taking away the freedom of an individual. No one should have the right to tell you what you can and cannot do in your own personal home as long as your not hurting or harming anyone!

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I do not feel the air is any different from one city to another in the Puget Sound areas. I do not see much burning during the late spring through early fall. Everyone should have access to burning in times of no power or other heat source. I do not believe that wood burning is the main problem compared to other industry pollution!

What really needs to happen is people stop producing, especially those on welfare!!! Humans are the root of the problem to all world affairs and it's only going to get worse. How about teaching birth control, or limits to how many children per family?

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I am in favor of the enhanced enforcement of burning bans. I am also in favor of the removal of uncertified wood stoves and inserts.

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You are SADLY mistaken, if you think wood stoves are the biggest reason for poor air quality in Tacoma. People who complain about second hand cigarette smoke, and drive internal combustion vehicles have not thought there argument all the way through. same thing with wood stoves. Do you have ANY idea how much polution you produce by the manufacture and opperation of YOU'R vehicle. This is the single biggest cause of CFC's in our environment, These CFC's are the leading cause of Cancer. How many people do you know, who have died ferom cancer. You need to consider alternative sources for you,r transpotation needs. not worry about wood stoves.

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I agree with using both your suggestions as a means to pollution-reduction solutions as a start. However, I believe a total ban of wood stoves, pellet stoves, etc. should happen. When does the breathing health of our citizens become a priority?

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I have a neighbor that has a huge fire pit in his backyard. Every nice day this past summer he would build a fire in the morning and then let it smolter all day long. Of course the wind blew the smoke away from his house and directly into mine. When I asked him why he did this, he replied "this is my barbeque and I burn nothing but oak", my reply - I don't care what you burn it still stinks especially when it smolters all day. How can he get away with this? If we all built fires in the morning and let them smolter all day, the air would be so thick, none of us could breathe. Please let me know your thoughts and what my options are.

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When making your decisions please keep in mind those whom you will effect. Most who use the woodstove are lower income or on a limited fixed income. There are still those whose only source of heat is their woodstove. Others who will be effected are firewood suppliers and the woodstove industry. These are people who rely on those industries to feed their families. There are fewer and fewer people using woodstoves every year so as time passes the problem will continue to fix itself. There are very limited days in the year when the smoke from woodstoves becomes a real problem. How much will it cost taxpayers to enforce any laws that are created? Is it really worth the cost at this time?

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Thank you for allowing comments to be made.

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Wood, pellet and gas are viable heat resources. An incentive program to replace uncertified wood, pellet or gas heating appliances like done in the past are the best way to have consumers self-police themselves to aid with air pollution reduction. As a result, cleaner air quality takes place as well as a reduction in monies spent to identify and enforce non-compliance. The current woodstove, pellet stove, gas stove replacement program does not offset the cost basis enough for the consumer to voluntarily enroll in this program. It has been proven it is less expensive for the consumer to make purchases and installations of new certified heating appliances provided by Puget Sound Clean Air Agency than to use the mandated vendor list provided. In summary, a much greater cash incentive needs to take place with more advertising in the way of Public Service Announcements.

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I believe both proposals should be enacted. I have lived in Tacoma for many years. As with many adults and also children, I have allergies. The smoke pollution makes them much worse. Neighbors sometimes burn what I believe to be "un-dried" wood in fireplaces and the smoke carries to my yard. Although I believe that there is a furnace in the most-offending smoke-producing house in my neighborhood, I do not know how the family economics of current times forces the owners to rely on woodburning as a source of heat. Thanks for addressing this very important issue.

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If you want to control wood burning in the city fine. But leave those of us who moved out of the city alone. As far as I'm concerned as long as gas/diesel burning vehicles are on the road you have no room to talk about wood burning stoves and fireplaces out in the rural areas. Stay out of my business! Stay away from my property! Or...you can admit that there is no such thing as private property rights and I'll expect to see you out here next week to do some repair work.

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As a senior citizen on a very limited income, this greatly concerns me. Last winter, had no wood, and the electric bill was beyond my limited means and did not finally get my power bill paid in full until August of this year. Have scrimped to buy wood this year, now this. As a senior widow (2010) I don't know what I will do. We've lived in this mobile home for 30 yrs and always had wood. Makes it difficult for one with limited means to survive.

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Certified stoves are fine. It's the outdoor burning that is bad. There are several people out there that can't afford anything other than wood burning. Why would you start this now when everyone is hurting financially?

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My concern relates to fireplaces in rental houses. It is my thought that landlords should have the responsibility of making sure that fireplaces in houses they own should be certified and working properly. At a minimum the chimneys should be cleaned at least annually- it should not be the tenants problem or expense as they are paying rent for the use of the property, and expect it to be working properly in the first place. If there was a standard that was required regarding the maintenance of fireplaces, maybe that would help reduce the air pollution from fireplaces in Pierce county.

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I supplement the electric heat in my home with wood heat and have made every effort to comply with the rules and regulations that are in place. I receive e-mail notifications and check the web site for updates regularly. I find it frustrating to look about the area on "no burn" days and see clouds of smoke coming from so many chimneys. I feel that enhanced enforcement is the road to follow first. There are enough restrictions in place if they were enforced. In years past I have contacted neighbors during restricted burn periods to let them know that they were not in compliance and they stated that no one

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checks so they would keep burning anyway. I have reported illegal burning to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and received no response. A few more people in the field could go a long way toward cleaning the air.

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I am all for enhanced enforcement of burn bans and fines for homeowners who smoke out a neighborhood. I have a neighbor who does just that. They have a fireplace that created a great deal of smoke all winter. I live in N.E. Tacoma and the neighbor smokes with neighbors all around. the smoke actually gets into my house when the wind is just right. Which is quite often. If they had an updated insert or efficient woodstove it would help.

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How about you offer to help subsidize installation of solar panels to offset the cost of running of electric furnaces?

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Pierce County does not have an air pollution problem based on my assessment of the communications between the DOE and EPA. I am not an expert, however, I have some thoughts after reviewing the communications (letters) between the DOE, EPA and the Puyallup Tribe whose reservation significantly resides in the middle of the specified nonattainment area in Tacoma-Pierce County. Based on the maps it visually appears that the Puyallup reservation occupies nearly 50% of the nonattainment area designated by the EPA. This is important to understand because the EPA and not the State of Washington are responsible for meeting air quality standards on Indian Reservations. In a letter from the EPA addressed to Herman Dillon Senior, Chairman of the Puyallup Tribe, the EPA states that Washington's DOE "specifically excluded from its recommendation any trust lands within the exterior boundary of the Puyallup Reservation. The Puyallup Tribe of Indians Settlement Act of 1989, 25 U.S.c. § 1773, provides that restricted and trust lands within Puyallup Reservation referred to as the 1873 Survey Area, are the responsibility of EPA and the Tribe." This letter can be found on the EPA's website.

Relevant Issues: (In my opinion)

#### Transparency & Data Set Consistency

> It appears that perhaps not all communications to the EPA by the DOE are posted on their website. As an example I did not find a key letter from the DOE to the EPA dated July 25, 2008, under their list of documents discussing PM2.5 (particulate matter) nonattainment recommendations. This letter was posted on the EPA website & it contains the slides of a presentation the DOE gave to the EPA on June 9, 2008. On page 11 there is a slide titled PM2.5 Specification. It seems that Tacoma-Pierce County got the nonattainment designation based on the 2006 data from the EPA's L Street monitor in Tacoma. Based on this slide I have the following concerns.

> It shows only 59 days were monitored! Why would the DOE allow the EPA to give a nonattainment designation to Tacoma area based on only 59 days or 16% out of the days of the year? Importantly I simply can't find the data posted anywhere for subsequent years (2007 to the present) to compare whether the levels are improving or deteriorating. Is the state being forced into doing all this elaborate and time intensive work based on the EPA data for only 59 days in 2006? Even more appalling is that out of the 59 days, 55 days were below the minimum allowable particulate matter in the EPA's 2006 guidelines. That means that 93.2% of the time the supposed nonattainment area is in compliance. All the studies by the DOE show that the levels above PM2.5 are rare and occur when temperatures are below freezing on days where winds are only around 5 mph causing stagnation. The particulates mostly from wood burning are trapped and aren't blown away. This elevation appears to be caused by certain weather conditions and the topography of the area as documented by the data and studies conducted by both the DOE and EPA. There needs to be clarification regarding the data used to designate Tacoma-Pierce County as a nonattainment area. I have spent at least 8 hours reading the communications from

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the DOE to the EPA. I have been impressed with the work of the DOE. In my mind EPA data does not warrant the Tacoma-Pierce County area to be classified as nonattainment due to the small sampling of days monitored, the extremely small % of days out of compliance, and especially if the designation is due to old data from 2006.

#### EPA Responsibility for Nonattainment Area for Puyallup Reservation

> The EPA requires all states where they have determined nonattainment areas to submit infrastructure implementation plans (SIPS) by December 14, 2012 for bringing the area back into containment. By law neither the counties or states have jurisdiction for reservations or tribal lands. Therefore the DOE should add to their SIPS the following request and exception.

> Request that the EPA honor their requirements and provide a SIPS for the Puyallup Reservation.

> If a SIPS is not provided and enforced by the EPA for the Puyallup Reservation an exception should be triggered so that the nonattainment area of Tacoma-Pierce County becomes "unclassified". This exception is justified and necessary if the EPA refuses to meet their own obligations and regulations regarding air quality standards.

I also would like to inform everyone (if you aren't aware) that the EPA received complaints (threats of lawsuits) twice this year in January and then July from the plaintiffs specifically the Sierra Club and WildEarth Guardians regarding the EPA needing to make states comply to the regulations in the Clean Air Act. Washington was one of 6 states that they targeted as not meeting certain timetables. Do you think that either of these two groups will threaten the EPA if they don't submit their own SIPS for the Puyallup Reservation??

I am requesting clarification regarding what specific data was used by the EPA for the nonattainment designation. I understand that I may be wrong in concluding that the designation was based on only 59 days of monitoring in 2006 at the L Street monitoring location. Thank you!

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Considering the already soaring energy costs to heat our homes, combined with the terrible economy which has put additional stress on our finances; banning wood burning would only cause greater hardship for those of us who rely on clean wood burning to help heat our homes, and is grossly uncompassionate toward so many who are already struggling!! I'm appalled at the audacity of this suggestion, particularly during this time of extreme hardship!!!! If you want to help, stop making more difficulties, and work to get this economy going so we can afford even the basics!!!!

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You people are pathetic. Your ideas to me will cost big bucks, and in a downturned economy, I for one will not retrofit my home for your ideals. Do you have the Electric Companies in your back pocket to provide cheaper electricity? Heaters and pellet stoves require it. So...During an ice storm the electricity goes out we all freeze because of your ideals? I want your agency, organization or whatever you call yourselves to disband and go away. China and India create more than half the worlds pollution, go bother them.

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I personally think that burning wood is not that critical to the air quality because it is a natural to the environment. One other thing is that woods heat is a lot healthier to the human body than any other source of heat that we have now. There are many other factors like cost of electrical or natural gas or even oil heating systems are over priced along with many other utility bills. Heating your house is much more important then driving old car with no emission restriction, which I think is much critical to the environment considering all those cars that by passing the emissions. I don't use wood to heat my house but if prices on electrical will keep rising I will consider switching to wood stove. Other thing I will not

support bill for restricting use of wood heating systems.

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I live on the XXX block of [street], my parents live on the XXX of [street]. Both addresses are 98422. Last night, October 13th was awful! Stepping out my parents you couldn't breathe. There are too many homes with wood fires burning. All you have to do is go to my house and the difference is amazing. I am solidly aware of four homes near my parents that burn wood: [address], [address], [address], and [address]. Our area of Tacoma is being left out of so many things. Please enforce better air quality within the city limits, which does mean most of 98422. Thank you.

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We do have a certified wood stove. Our other source of heat is oil. Oil is too expensive to use all the time. We just don't have the money. But buy good seasoned wood. We also call burn ban number each time before we use insert. We keep chimney clean. Please don't ban good wood certified stoves. I am all for clean air, but with this economy we do have to use wood at times. If everyone obeys guidelines there should be no problems. Thank You!

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I fill that the power companies have paid you all off. to get this BS. so they can make more money. I spend 30 pr month in power and they want to fix my heater.. ha ha.. its brand new. never used it.. so you think this is the way to do it..we have burnt wood in the northwest for years and years that's what the wind is for.if you don't like it then go home . leave the northwest next it will be hunting and fishing too..this is who we are and what we stand for. again if you don't like then go home and leave the northwestern people alone...

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I agree that we need to be concerned with air quality. However, I believe a part of the problem is enforcement of burn control. I am a disabled person who finds a fire in the fireplace a great enjoyment. I always try to be aware of burn bans & adhere to restrictions. Yet, many of my neighbors dismiss the bans because they feel there is no enforcement. There needs to be a way to detect burning of wood stoves & fireplaces at night. I also believe continued education of the seriousness of the problem would help bring people to adhere to the rules.

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I burn wood with just my standard fire place, "no insert". Are there any incentives for a natural gas solution?

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Wood stove heating should be banned. Allow for an occasional fire place burning for power outage emergencies or ambiance only.

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Air quality is important to me. I like the idea of upgrading a wood stove to either 1. non wood burning or 2. certified modern wood stove. the price of this is small compared to the value of a whole house- so easy for people to comply. We should SIMULTANEOUSLY set a date by which the upgrade should be done... lets face it. we don't have resources to enforce this effectively. To encourage this, give people a tax break for a few years? how do people know when there is a burn ban?

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The only way we can afford to heat our home is with fire wood. We use a certified wood stove, completely dry firewood and are extremely careful when we burn. With the economy in the shape it is now you simply cannot stop people from burning wood. What is needed is education about DRY WOOD, certified woodstoves and how and when to burn. Wood is a renewable resource, oil, gas and electricity are not. Please do not take this last bit of economic stability away from our family

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Removing uncertified wood stoves and inserts by a certain date. Stupid how would you enforce that,

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wood stoves are not registered. People wont register if they think it will cost them money. Exploring technologies that would enable better nighttime enforcement. Waste of tax payer money.

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I live in an apartment in downtown Tacoma right by the Museum of Glass. I was attracted to the amenities and restaurants downtown and the waterfront. I really like my building and the lifestyle here but the air quality is awful. If I leave my windows cracked open at night, in the morning my apartment smells like a parking garage. Sometimes it smells like a paint shop. The odor comes from outside. Now I keep my windows closed and resorted to running a HEPA airfilter in my apartment 24/7. I also have to block the crack under my door at night to keep the polluted air from the hallway out. After living here for 2 years I am thinking of moving out. Probably to Seattle. It just feels very toxic here.

I am curious why you are placing so much emphasis on residential fireplaces and BBQs when I'm sure a huge contributor to pollution is industry. Do you have no control over what toxic waste industry has been spewing into the air? Do they have a presence and influence on your task force, telling you to keep your hands off in the name of protecting economic growth and jobs?

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Right off the bat, let me tell you that's a horrible idea; to ban fireplaces. Tell me, while I support my husband and son (both unemployed), who is going to pay for the upgrade you will mandate, when you outlaw wood burning fireplaces? Being honest, you aren't really gauging the publics yea/nay. You are seeing how much upset you're going to face. I think it's called 'damage control'. You have already made up your minds.

Those that have ignored the bans, are going to ignore you and your decision. We bought this house because of the fireplace and location. Here comes my only swear; "What the [expletive], people!" I just want to know what you get out of this? Because if you haven't noticed, there are vehicles out there that get me coughing. The industries pouring it out through their stacks. You mentioned 'enhancing enforcement'? I've don't see a whole lot of enforcement of other things. Cell phone use while driving. On a weekly basis, I have to avoid an accident from a law-violater. Fireworks use. Sometimes it looks like everyone has their own personal shopping cart. Excessive speeding along residential areas. I lost count of the animals I scraped off the road in front of my house. While I drive 62 mph to stay out of others' way, I get passed like I'm standing still. Put up more cameras and hire more police officers. The money should roll in, if that has any bearing. Things like this are either political or money.

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forget about "certified" stoves, etc,. They become poluters as they age and with use because of improper/lack of maintenance. Burning wood is dirty and should be curtailed unless a person can PROVE beyond a reasonable doubt they have no alternate choice because of financial means. I have a neighbor who is WELL OFF financially, has a natural gas furnace in their home but burns wood almost exclusively because they are "cheap skates". They have a "certified" wood stove which smokes bad enough that it makes it difficult to breath when outside during winter months when the inversions and nastural breezes blow it towards our home. **THEY ALL EMIT POLUTANTS WHEN TURNED DOWN, BECAUSE OTHERWISE THEY EMIT TOO MUCH HEAT FOR MOST HOMES!**

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I am opposed to wood burning of any kind in the city limits. Some neighbors have continuous fires to heat their homes which I think is innapropriate in a high population area. Burning in outdoor fire pits/ clay fire pots should also be prohibited as this also ruins air quality when you would want to open a window for fresh cool air and find it filled with smoke. Gas burning stoves and fire pits are much cleaner solution to the problem for those that need a fire. I agree that some exceptions are necessary for those whose only source of heat is wood, especially in this economy, however NOT in the city limits. I would limit this to more rural areas of Pierce County.

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I think that this is a pretty good idea. However, a lot of houses that burn wood and fossil fuels, like heating oil, are still a problem. They create a large carbon footprint. I seems that even greater good could be made by requiring that houses be insulated at time of sale. Insulating is fairly inexpensive and would make heating more effective in the winter and would reduce the amount of fuel needed to heat a home. Please note that I am not talking about window replacement, I am talking about the walls and attics.

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My wife and I regularly walk for exercise year around and we feel the effects of those polluting stoves. It only takes one or two in a one block area to pollute several square blocks making the walk for health undesirable. We think that both enforcement combined with replacement are whats needed to clean up the environment. Much of the burning pollution comes from homes in which the owners have tamped down the damper to facilitate a longer burn when away or asleep. Use both options!

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Personally, I smell something foul in the air, but it isn't fine particle pollution: it's Tacoma Power looking to increase their profits. Instead of heeding the call for greener power production over the last 20 years, they continue to place responsibility on home owners and residents. How are we to heat our homes? Conveniently by using gas or electricity, right? Follow the money. I would bet after these burn bans go into effect that price increases on electricity and gas will follow. I think this is pitiful and unethical: the people who run this organization may really care about the health of the people of Pierce County, but I can guarantee that county officials seen this as a great opportunity to further oppress the people and generate funds for Tacoma Power. Keep your eyes on the Occupy Wall Street protests fat-cats, your time is coming. Are people suffering from pollution? Of course, and that is terrible; so if you really cared you would provide a cheap, readily available, renewable resource to the people of this county. Instead, we get a silly little card in our mail essentially telling us, "Hey, you're killing yourself." Why don't you go after the coal burning industrial plants and real offenders. People have burned wood for centuries to heat themselves, but now we have a problem? Come on, Pierce County. When are government officials going to stop being reactionary and start actually doing something proactive?

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Wood heat is a Northwest tradition and families love the fact that, with frequent power outages and cold damp weather, they can cook and stay warm without electricity. Wood stove heat is our family's preference as emergency heat because my asthma reacts to portable heaters, i.e.: kerosene or propane heaters, etc. When the weather is extreme, my asthma and chronic illness is helped greatly by the penetrating heat from our woodstove.

Since smoke is the problem, what is the county doing to investigate devices and more particularly to an apparatus and method for removing particulate matter from exhaust smoke produced by, fireplaces and woodstoves? There is little we can find that this technology exists. As an incentive for new air purification technology in wood stove chimney's, Pierce County, or even Washington State, could offer a scholarship or reward to the person or persons who invent a better filtration device for wood smoke chimneys. Not just the stove itself, but the leftover smoke that exits through the chimney is the real key to solving your problem..

If Pierce County were to sponser this venture, also retaining a percentage of ownership in the filtration devices that win, the revenue will more than cover the initial costs and may bring enough profit to sponser further pollution control research and developement. Students and entrepreneurs love a challenge that brings recognition and reward.

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I think it is hight time there was a law against wood burning in fireplaces or outside

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Please, QUIT trying to control us. Don't you know that one of the most pleasant things is a warm fire in the fireplace on a winter night.

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What gives a beauracrat agency the right ssto go into someone prrivate property and tell them wether or not they have an "approved" fireplace or wether or nor they can burn wood to keep their home warm. Please stay out of peoples's homes and let them govern themselves.

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While I can understand you are trying to help make cleaner air, it appears that with the permit process and so on, you are just trying to raise money to keep another unneccary committee together to provide jobs to people. I have to burn wood to heat my home because my power bills without woodburning are more than \$300 dollars per month with the cold weather. I Save \$200 dollars per month burning wood. You could not possibly help me to lower my power bills any other way. Power just keeps costing more and more and we as the people get no reprieve. When do we get a say in how much regulation we have to have from our "representatives" that are supposed to support the people. I am not likely done with my thoughts and I believe I will be at a meeting.

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I walk most mornings and passed an area with wood pollution. Why is that allowed? Please do what you can to prevent one household from polluting the area for the rest of the area. Registration might be one option so we know exactly where the pollution is coming from and can monitor. Banning fireplaces and wood-only heating should be considered. Thank you for your consideration.

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My granddaughter, that lives with me, has a history of respiratory problems. I have three neighbors that burn wood as their source of heat. She is unable to go outside to play due to the round the clock burning. My own issues surround the smell of smoke that gets into everything-I can't open my windows to freshen the air in the house due to the smoke.

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The facts have been skewed shall we say ? the agency seems to be doing some double talk (PSCA) I believe there is plenty of ways to address this issue and some level of success can be found. I would hope we could also touch on root cause and not just symptoms. Look forward to talking with you at the open house events coming up. thanks for your time and consideration.

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We are retired and heat with wood - a certified wood stove. The time we need it most is when potential burn bans occur. I would support removal of uncertified wood stoves by a date certain. This would be in addition to requirements to inspect and remove on the sale of a home. I'd be interested in inspections or registration - could be a job creator. Can you monitor heat, etc from the sky and target the worst offenders?

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I hope a plan to reduce fireplace smoke gets in place soon. I have a neighbor that burns from October to May. Everytime I open a door or a window, my house fills with smoke. They have electric heat. This smoke is an extreme annoyance to me and apparently I cannot do anything about it. So I hope a plan to regulate this problem comes into place very soon.

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I perform combustion analysis on boilers to help reduce carbon emmissions(both co2 and co). I feel that people who burn wood to heat their houses would do well to learn the basics of complete combustion. A hotter fire with adequate amounts of excessive air(over stoichiometric levels)would reduce carbon emmissions. Helping people find sources of good wood to burn as opposed to them burning newspapers and woods containing glues and residues would also help. Please do not pursue regulations on people

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who burn responsibly and smartly.

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whats on my mind as well as everyone elses is the rising cost of fuel , nat gas / oil ect. weve spent many \$\$\$\$ insulating , windows ect. to be more energy efficiant. the wood stove isolates the heat in actual living area instead of entire house. saving us big bucks in a tight economy. we depend on our wood stove two fold, quality of heat and savings it allows. every little bit helps. thank you

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I burn wood in my fireplace because it is designed to heat my home and hot water tank. This is offers me considerable savings over my electrical costs and the wood is always free. This is also handy with the once or twice a year electrical outages (the ones for days) and minimizes the use of a generator. As much as we would like to think we are in an urban area, the facts are, the infrastructure is basic and costly. I observe burn bans. If not too expense and to maintain my fireplace, would not be opposed to some type of converter to improve a clean burn. Thank you

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We burn firewood, but adhere to burn bans. I'd support increased enforcement, along with increased communication of when burn bans occur, including notifications when conditions are headed towards requiring a burn ban. Sometimes there is no burn ban when I would expect there to be one, so another possibility might be to invoke burn bans more often or for longer periods. Removing old wood stoves wouldn't seem to be a great answer since it still leaves fireplaces intact, and those with firewood would likely just use their fireplaces.

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Perhaps you should concentrate on eliminating burning of coal and used oil for heat first. If you can't enforce that how do you expect to prevent wood burning?

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Forcing residents to rely on energy bought from local utilities is a terrible idea. I would be at the mercy of PSE, and would have no choice but to comply with any future rate hikes. Heaven forbid we have an earthquake, volcanic eruption or any disruption of the natural gas or electrical distribution service. No natural gas, oil, or electricity would mean no heat. A wood stove is the cheapest and most reliable way to heat my home. There's no shortage of wood in the Northwest.

Right now our government is facing a budget deficit. Is the money being used to mail out flyers, buy advertising, and run a website by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency the best use of my tax dollars? With many Pierce County residents facing the loss of their homes, jobs, medical insurance and even struggling to put food on the table, I would say this is a tremendous waste of resources. I will be forwarding this response to my local representatives.

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Yes, I agree that we should do something about the wood burning. There have been multiple times when I would be outside and had to cover my nose and mouth because of somebody burning wood somewhere nearby. one time the smell even came into my house.

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I think the mere mention of technologies for "nighttime" enforcement bother me and should bother everyone else. Besides, what is the point of worrying about pollution when the streets are not even safe. Spend the tax money on more important issues rather than worrying about how people keep warm in the winter, especially since many can't afford expensive "green" heating solutions.

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I am so glad you guys have sent these postcards and brought this to peoples attention including my own. I think fine particle pollution is major issue not just here but everywhere especially in the winter time! I would agree with a city, or even state or federal level ban that would not allow people to use wood burning devices as a heat source. It makes no sense when we have several much cleaner options that do

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not pollute the air! Natural gas fireplaces, electric heat etc...Thank you! I support this initiative and will come to the open house and bring a friend. Thank you so much~[name]

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This is total BS. The "pollution" is not from increased burning, it's actually less. The advertised pollution is from lowering the standards. This is another example of a faction of government trying to regulate every portion of our lives. Burning is down, natural wood consumption is down. Let it lie and leave us alone. You make up these health issues just like you made up the man made global warning. It's the standards that should be changed, not the enforcement.

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Trash burning is a significant problem in Pierce County. This is brought about by economics. People who can't afford the high costs of trash pick up and dump fees burn their trash weekly. Air pollution would be significantly reduced if the county offered free dumping of household trash. This would also reduce the amount of illegal dumping that frequently occurs in unincorporated Pierce. Community dumpsters in the worst affected neighborhoods could have an immediate impact.

A wood burning insert is our primary source of heat in the winter months. We ensure the wood we burn is dry and properly seasoned because it generates more heat and burns cleaner. I don't believe this is widely known and many people put off buying their wood until the colder months which is often far from being properly dried out. Unseasoned wood creates more pollution. I'm not sure how you regulate the quality of firewood sold but believe burning unseasoned firewood during the winter months is a significant factor that has not been accounted for.

- Maintenance of wood stoves and inserts also contributes to their efficiency and ensures a cleaner/hotter burn. Chimney cleaning is expensive and many people are unable to clean their own chimneys either through lack of equipment/experience or inability to climb up on their roof
  - I find it interesting that Joint Base Fort Lewis McChord is exempt. The volume of air traffic in and out of McChord is almost certainly a significant contributor to air pollution in the non-attainment area.
  - I do not support regulating wood stoves. I would support regulating the quality of wood that is burnt and eliminating the use of burn barrels for trash burning and any other form of burning household trash.
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Even though my wife and I are living pretty much month to month, burn wood and can't afford to heat our home strictly off of electricity, I can understand the issue. I can't say these particulates are mainly an issue with wood burners as I wonder how much vehicles and industry contribute to the problem. Whatever is decided, I hope you folks will give plenty of time for folks like us to adjust to the change, especially if it is expensive since I just purchased a new wood burner 4 years ago. I also wonder if perhaps there is a scrubber of some sort that can be added to an existing chimney. Even burning wood, our electricity bill is nearly \$200.00 a month during the colder months. Thank you.

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I favor enhanced enforcement as a first priority. Removal, since it is potentially more difficult to enforce and costly for homeowners, should be the second priority. Removal/upgrading should be accompanied by monetary incentives.

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Hi PSCAA:

I would encourage you to expand & fund incentive & rebate programs. I participated 2 years ago & have nothing but good feelings for the program. I was able to get a \$750 rebate, then claim the biomass tax credit. It is my understanding that my emissions of fine particulates was reduced by 95%+/-, I have a more efficient stove & I am able to still heat my home using salvaged wood from my wood lot/forest. Indeed, it is the most valuable item I glean from my property, which helps to offset the sky high taxes I

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pay for having a farm within the UGA. You may consider making the rebate slightly higher for Made in USA stoves & those made out of recycled cast iron. Finally, there are basic environmental & economic aspects to wood burning:

1. Private wood burning from (mostly) downed, dying, or thinned trees is efficient, carbon neutral, sustainable. When wood is bought locally, it creates local jobs for hard working individuals, instead of Exxon shareholders in distant lands.

2. There are many folks who rely on wood heat to make their home economics work. I would avoid punitive measures, as the folks who most need to heat with wood do it for financial reasons. As the fine folks at Freakanomics will tell you, find the right incentives & you will move mountains.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this dialogue via email, as I cannot make the open house. Sincerely, [name]

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As a person with asthma, I wholeheartedly endorse these proposed changes.

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We have lived in our double-wide mobile home for more than 20 years. Our only source of heat is our air tight wood stove that was installed in our home when built in 1979. There was not a certification process at that time. We have an electric furnace, but the ducts have been destroyed by racoons and possums, therefore we cannot use our furnace. My home is occupied by my wife and I and our adult son. My son and I are 100% disabled and we live on Social Security income. We cannot afford to repair the ducts for the furnace. I burn free wood I obtain from businesses on the Tacoma waterfront. We will freeze in the winter if we are unable to burn our stove. Please! We cannot afford to buy a new certified stove. I keep my chimney clean and burn a very hot fire with very little smoke emanating from the chimney. We are on 5 acres without close neighbors. Our neighbors have never complained about our wood stove. We used to be able to burn our leaves and branches from our trees, but we can't do that anymore. Please don't make us give up our heat, too.

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I have a certified wood stove insert and I use it to augment our home heating.. Our other source of heat is an oil furnace. The price of fuel is high and has the potential to increase drastically. We have looked into getting natural gas to our neighborhood but it would cost a lot to get the miles of supply pipes installed. I am in favor of getting rid of the stoves and or fireplaces that pollute the most but please do not outlaw my certified insert that combusts a lot of the smoke before it exits through the chimney. Thank you.....

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Burn Bans ARE NOT enough. Due to population growth, we need REQUIRE people use the dump for both trash and lawn waste. No more burning. Period. I have four neighbors that burn trash and green waste every beautiful day. I cannot open the windows in my own home and often go to bed with a head-ache. One neighbor specifically burns at night to get away with it even during bans. I am so pleased that this is finally being discussed. PLEASE, everyone's health is at risk. Stop the burning in Pierce County altogether. If you want photos, I have taken some. You will be able to see the real damage to our air quality.

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I agree with stepping up enforcement of burn bans. I agree with requiring removal of uncertified wood stoves/inserts when a home is sold. I am strongly against setting a date certain. I and many other seniors depend on wood stoves to supplement our heating and keep cost down. I would be unable to afford to buy a new stove and there are many of us in the same situation....especially in these difficult economic times. Thank you.

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Continue incentive program and implement a deadline for ALL UNCERTIFIED wood stoves and inserts to be removed. I have a newer model (most efficient) wood stove available. Our 1990 two-story house has electric force fan heating, but this is expensive and does not do a good job of heating the house, which has vaulted ceilings downstairs. The woodstove, with blower and ceiling fans, can heat the entire house in a short period of time. We only use the woodstove on the coldest nights (below freezing) and only during the daytime during colder periods if we are home. Unfortunately these often are the times the no burn goes into effect. We try to observe the no burn days and our neighborhood does not seem to have a lot of wood smoke, but when it is 0 to 32 degrees, and those occasional periods when it stays cold for days, we must use the woodstove. I CANNOT AFFORD TO RUN THE ELECTRIC HEATERS DURING THE COLDEST PERIODS. The house has been sealed up as much as possible, we have storm doors and double pane windows and are on the budget payment plan with the power company. Bottom line, in the coldest periods, I consider my only source of heat the CERTIFIED woodstove-- and would hope any permit system has adequate exceptions that will allow me to use my certified wood stove as needed. No fee for the permit please.

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I do not like the idea of "Removing uncertified wood stoves and inserts by a date certain". On the second choice of "Removing uncertified wood stoves and inserts when a house is sold", I feel it should be "replace or remove, per the buyers preference, and to allow them to replace it with a "certified" wood stove. There are many that would prefer wood heat over the pellet, gas, propane, or electric versions. I felt the prior incentive program was insufficient in encouraging/assisting home owners to replace their current wood stove with a certified version, and needs to offer a better incentive for all income levels. With the prior incentive program, I did not like the idea of the uncertified stoves having to be destroyed. I would prefer to see them offered to other less densely populated counties that allow uncertified wood stoves, possibly to low income families in other counties. I would also like to see the campfires in our State Parks minimized somehow during Burn Bans as those are a large pollutant in our area. Many times the wood seems pretty green as there is a large amount of wood smoke in the air during summer evenings. So ensuring only well seasoned wood is sold at the campgrounds, and encouraging or limiting the fires during Burn Bans to a maximum of 2-3 hours, and no later than the 10 p.m. quiet time. Thank you.

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I've lived in Edgewood 20 years and used an insert as the main heat for that time. I had an oil furnace which was put in in 1948 when the house was built. It was dirty, inefficient, expensive, and finally quit working. I installed a new-fangled kerosene heater to heat the house up some in the mornings and give me time to start a wood fire. As a retired person in my early 60's on very low-income, it would be very difficult for me to keep warm without wood use. I try to harvest my firewood during the warm months from friends and tips. My insert is certified but no stove is totally emission free. Please do not pass rules that would make it too hard for us to live warm in winter.

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There needs to be more enforcement of no burning many homes in the Parkland area pay no attention to the no burn ban of fire places are wood stove when a burn ban is in place my wife and I walk though out the area and everyone seems to just do what they want.

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I think reduction in wood burning pollution with the aim of eliminating it almost entirely is the only way to go. One only has to look at the huge increase in lung related diseases, especially asthma, to realize that if we don't take decisive action we will slowly but certainly wreak havoc on our atmosphere with disastrous consequences for life on Earth. I know changing behavior is a slow and difficult process. Anything government can do to inform the public and encourage/enforce reduction of this polluting

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activity gets my vote.

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MANDATE that ALL old/inefficient woodstoves & fireplaces are replaced. Some people cannot afford replacement, so develop a grant program, with a lien that resides with the property until sold, resulting in a long term revolving fund. 1st choice: replacement by a date certain; 2nd: replacement on sale. Also allow utilities to provide resources for replacement (e.g., allow PSE to utilize its mitigation money to pay for natural gas for wood-burning devices replaced w/ gas furnaces.) Could do more to help the environment than developing technology like wind turbines.

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I continue to support the privilege we have to own and burn with wood stoves in our homes if we so choose, recognizing that wood stoves only cause some of the local pollution. At the same time I see the problem that wood burning can cause to those individuals with allergy/asthma issues when the atmospheric conditions cause particulates to collect. People whose only source of heat is wood should and need to be using only certified wood stoves/pellet stoves, and others need to obey the burn ban when applicable. I don't agree with the idea, though, of a permit requirement for occasional wood burners as this is intrusive. If a burn ban continues for many days, especially in cold weather, it is an imposition to those of us who burn, not for exclusive heat, but for extra warmth and comfort. In many cities when water shortages become a problem in the summer, watering is rationed (even or odd days). Why couldn't this be utilized during a wintertime air quality "shortage" (burning be allowed even/odd days in different areas?). After an all-out ban is lifted, there could be a short period of time when only half the wood burners are burning wood at one time -- a 50% drop in burning.

We used to own a conventional wood stove, and now a pellet stove and enjoy every minute of its use. I encourage the city/county to work towards solutions that maintain and improve air quality but ALSO maintain and uphold the freedoms we have to continue enjoying a renewable resource, wood.

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I have been using wood for heat for a number of years. I have a modern wood stove that has a catalytic converter. I only burn wood that has been aged over two years. My chimney emits almost no smoke. I do not want to be penalized for my responsible behavior by having you do a blanket ban on wood burning. Develop a program to eliminate the dirty burning stoves and let us responsible citizens use wood for heat. Thanks for the opportunity to give my input.

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I agree with banning uncertified wood stoves, I have recently put one in our home. With unemployment high and heating costs going up all the time, everyone is trying to just get through the winter. Putting such demands on people right now would hurt them financially and those with kids would suffer more. Enforcing a burn ban would be better for most folks and would end the trash burning in most fireplaces and stoves. Some of my neighbors only use their stoves or fireplaces to burn their trash.

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All of this is a waste of taxpayers money when you cannot turn in an anonymous complaint..my neighbor burns garbage every single day all year long but since you will not handle a complaint without my name on it they will continue to make me and everyone in the neighborhood and the elementary school children at the school a few hundred feet away sick because you will do nothing about a anonymous complaint..I can turn in someone for a building violation, child abuse, criminal infractions all anonymous but this which is a joke that you are doing your job to keep our air clean..other counties all anonymous complaints I see no reason why you don't it is impossible to keep neighborhood accord if your neighbor knows you turned them in..Im embarrassed by the sham the clean air agency is.. so what can you do to make it a better air quality area...do you job instead of sitting at your desks and let people

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make complaints without their names attached and ruin their lives

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The last thing this city/county needs is further government regulation and revenue generation disguised as wood burning permits. If you want less wood smoke, attack the problem at its root: Work with public utilities to reduce energy costs. Offer replacement programs at little or no cost to the consumer/residents needing to have their woodstoves removed due to age or inefficiency. Find a more efficient and effective method of burn ban notification. If I did not read the local fish wrap (The News Tribune) I would rarely be informed of a burn ban in my area. Consumer/residents cannot actively participate in making the area pollution free if they are unaware a ban has been put into effect. I would strongly caution your agency to not go the permit/license route and further strain people's budget during these economic difficulties. Especially when citizens are in the mood for grass roots led government program reductions and budgetary reassignments. You want to work with the citizens of Tacoma Pierce County in this situation. Adding to their financial woe will only cause an unnecessary backlash and ultimately do nothing to help reduce the number of households currently burning wood to offset unmanageable utility bills. Thank you for your time, [name], Tacoma

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You need to create geographically specific "zones" for wood stove burn bans. I live on the Key Peninsula and feel that wood stove burn bans here are unnecessary because of all the natural vegetation, the close proximity to the Puget Sound and the low density population. I do agree that you should require everyone in Pierce County to upgrade their wood stoves to certified stoves (I upgraded mine in 2006) because they are more efficient and produce less air pollution, yet many people in this area (and other areas of Pierce County) cannot afford to do this. Perhaps more people would upgrade if Pierce County offered its residents a financial incentive? I am totally against any type of permit process for using wood stoves because that is just another hidden tax that mostly affects those who can least afford to pay. Pierce County already has too many unnecessary permits (with fees attached) as it is. I'm also against investing tax money in new enforcement technologies. Don't spend our tax dollars for enforcement of new yet-to-be-determined bureaucratic rules for wood stoves. Instead, use the tax dollars to help the residents of Pierce County upgrade their wood stoves to meet the clean air standards.

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Sure all of this is well and good, but I don't have \$2000.00 or more to buy a new wood stove to replace my old one. So are you offering any interest free loans to enable people to comply or are you just issuing rules that no one can afford and then fining them when they can't comply? If the latter is the case, no wonder trust of government is on the decline...I saw a bumper sticker the other day..."Green is the new Red" it had a Hammer and Sickle emblem for the red. I think that's very appropriate for instances such as this.

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Whatever you guys figure out, please do not outlaw burning. I have a certified wood stove, and I can't begin to tell you how much I LOVE having fires every fall and winter. I went to one of your workshops a few years ago and was very impressed with the man that ran it, he wanted to keep burning going, just in the best possible manner. I guess maybe increase awareness of how you can burn cleaner. I didn't realize how until I went to that workshop.

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During the winter there are times when I can barely breathe because of all the woodsmoke in the air around our neighborhood. The smoke just sits there close to the ground and I can't help but think that it can't be healthy to breathe so darned much of it. Whatever you can do to enforce the laws, please do it.

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The term "adequate heat source" needs to be further defined. I have baseboard heaters in my house, but I am unable to keep the indoor temp above 63\* if the temps outside are below freezing without the

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use of the wood stove. There definitely needs to be either a subsidy or something equivalent to aid in replacing the wood stove, if it becomes mandatory to have the wood stove removed. It is financially unfair to expect me give up my best, most effective source of heat, without giving us a way to replace it. And by replace it, I mean with a source of heat that will keep my costs down as low as the wood burning stove does. With running my baseboard heaters on high, I can only keep the pipes from freezing, basically, and the cost is astronomical. The burn ban situation frustrates me immensely because the times I need the heat the most is the time I run the risk of fines if I burn my stove because I don't know if my baseboard heaters qualify as "adequate heat source", even though they won't raise the temp to anything remotely approaching comfortable if the temps are below freezing outside. People have been heating with wood for centuries. The periods of time there are fine particles in the air is relatively short. I would like to see more evidence of the affects of the short term elevation of the small particle levels in the air.

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Hi, We want to replace our old ('70's or '80's, I think) woodstove, but we have been ineligible for the rebates the Clean Air Agency offered in recent years due to our zip code (98303). Anywhere you REQUIRE woodstove replacement should be eligible for the same assistance offered in urban areas - it's all the same air, isn't it? Wood provides the vast majority of our heat and is a viable, local energy source. But I do wish we could burn it with less pollution resulting.

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I have a neighbor who burns garbage in her wood burning stove. She burns routinely in the early a.m. when people are sleeping. She does not burn when people can witness the smoke and source of obnoxious fumes. It is worst in summer when window fans are used to cool off the room where we sleep. What can be done when people are doing this at a time when they can rarely be caught. How will all that is being done to stop the pollution affect people who do not care and will continue to do exactly what they want without regard to others health? We do not have the resources to enforce new (or old and existing) laws so I doubt that any new legislation is going to make an impact.

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I want to share my belief that government, when it can, should be both pro-business and pro-environment. It does not take a stretch of the imagination to see how additional red-tape to potential certified wood stove customers would discourage many from buying a certified unit at all. If policies are enacted that make owning a certified wood appliance useless [because they can't be used on burn ban days] then the incentive to buy a new unit is gone. In this theory the potential customer would simply follow the path of least resistance and buy old/un-certified unit from Craig's List, bypassing all the red tape. This would in turn have a negative impact on the air quality as wood appliances burning at 100+ grams/hr are purchased in lieu of units tested below 4.5 grams/hr. This would also reduce the income the PSCA agency receives through the \$30 EPA fee, which I assure you no one on Craig's List is collecting and sending in.

A pro-business, responsible solution is to continue to encourage the use of only "certified" wood appliances, COMPLETELY outlawing the use un-certified units [burn ban or not]. Additionally, the requirement to remove and destroy older units upon the sale of a home is both pro-environment and pro-business.

The cause of the problem is stoves purchased prior to 1990...units that do not have the technology that enables customers to burn nearly smoke-free and particulate free. These same units are continually re-entering the Pierce County area as customers purchase them on Craig's List/Little Nickle/etc. I encourage you to take a stance and enforce regulation in a logical direction...towards stoves that are from by-gone era. Do not punish customers [who provide tax revenue], retailers [who provide tax revenue], and manufacturer's [who provide jobs and tax revenue] for the sins of the un-certified wood

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stove. Thank you, [name], [name's] Stove & Fireplace

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We should ban all outdoor burning everywhere year round. My neighbors burn green boughs after they cut their trees down. Yes, uncertified stoves are also a menace.

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I'm concerned that there is consideration of "requiring" people to remove their uncertified stoves. We have an uncertified stove that is also a source of hot water in the winter. Who would pay for the removal and replacement of this system in our house? We certainly can't afford to do that. And my husband and I have yet to see current manufactured things match up to the quality of "the old days". I will keep my current stove, thank you very much. I can see burn bans, fines, and such, but to tell people what they can and can't have - that's where I draw the line. Too much government running every inch of our lives has to stop.

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As much as it rains here which cleans the air??? Do that many people really burn wood to supposedly cause this problem? This could only be one of two things, or a little bit of both.. a way for Puget Sound Energy to increase profits or the "Clean Air Task Force" bucking too hard for a promotion. There are probably industrial sources of pollution which could use some more attention. Lets not be "too much government" and go after working families heating their homes through the long Pacific NW winters. That is, unless replacement stoves/ inserts which work just as well or better are provided AT NO COST.

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I heat my home primarily (90-95%) with a certified wood burning stove. I think burning should be allowed especially when using a certified wood stove and banning fireplace burning is not the answer to the air pollution problem. I also believe burning is a better use of resources and pollution reduction than what it takes to deliver other sources of energy to heat homes, such as gas, oil and electric. Burning with wood, if you think about it seriously reduces your carbon footprint. Banning burning is simply an easy target and does not address the bigger picture. I agree that non-efficient burning should be regulated, but not certified efficient wood stoves.

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Home inspections for compliance? Violate the 4th Amendment! EPA set these standards and there garbage. Save the tax payers money, stay out of our homes.

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My Neighbor burns his garbage, and all manner of other things. I have talked to him, had the local fire department send him literature about what he is doing, and even turned him into the fire department. Now he has just gotten more cagey about it. He burns at midnight most nights. I can smell the styrofoam. Is there any way to monitor the air in my neighborhood and/or any legal way I can encourage him to NOT do this any more? He used to burn outside, but has moved inside now. He installed a pellet stove, but doesn't seem to burn wood in it much. Is there any recourse I have? Another neighbor burns treated wood he gets for free at the side of the road in Fife. How can I help educate these people about the harm they are causing??? I do intend to be at the public meeting in Puyallup. Thank you!

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Your concerns about healthy air are well taken, but unfortunately too reactive. Many people not only depend on wood heat, but enjoy a winter fire. I for one, support, your burn bans when they do occur and never burn a fire. Yet, as I travel about I notice numerous chimneys with smoke. Why not find a way of better enforcement so when a burn ban is in effect it actually does us all some good? A complete overhaul of current regulations, with restrictions limiting Pierce County citizens the right to burn will result, in my opinion, with total disregard for your agency! Why not even think of burning districts around the county, and work with citizens when conditions are favorable? Allowing burning, creating better

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enforcement, will only bring the citizens to cooperating with the agency.

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My area is semi rural. Most homeowners in the area remember back to a time when in house burning was a God given right and still burn because of those memories. These folks are not cognizant of the fact that their neighbors may have breathing difficulties. The burners have the idea that if you don't like my smoke then just move because i'm exercising my god given right.

When we have local burn bans you see little signs posted on telephone poles and trees. These signs are a blur when driving by. The agency needs to print signs that are at least 6 foot wide with large letters and post them at major arterial intersections. They also need a phone number for the local reporting agency.

The local newspapers need front page notifications of burn bans and local burn laws.

My neighbors burn and I don't like it (i have asthma) but i can't do anything about it. I am reluctant to turn them in because they'll know who did it and ostracise me.

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How about you get two lanes added each way to I5 through Pierce county (Fort Lewis/Tillicum) so you can get all those hundreds of semi trucks moving instead of idling those diesels for hours during commute times. There are nights when I can even smell the fumes when standing in my front yard. I have a large reliance on my stove insert and it is for monetary reasons that I use it. However I only use it as needed when the TNT burn ban status is none for air or safety reasons. When I do use it I only use dry seasoned wood (which I have lots of for free) and I keep the flue open enough that the only time you can see smoke from my chimney is when I first start the fire. Requiring replacement at time of home sale is the only route I could live with unless someone else wants to pay for it. Social Security won't cut it.

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This is an excellent beginning. I would love to see us go to a no burn policy. Baby steps. My husband and I have spoken frequently with neighbors, most of whom burn regularly. They feel that because we live in the "country", on the water, we should tolerate burning and its attendant smoke. There is a lot to do in terms of education. Little progress can be made with getting church and civic groups and local news outlets behind efforts to curb air pollution. There is a lot of ignorance and mistrust of government officials. I fully support your efforts, and only wish we were not moving to San Diego, as this is an issue near and dear to me.

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We tried several times last year to report neighbors burning during a burn ban. I have severe asthma. The fire dept. did not even know there was a burn ban, the reporting hotline number did nothing. So what do we do when this happens over and over?

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I think alot of people depend on heat from burning wood in there fire place electric bills are to high in the winter time so it is cost efficient to burn wood in the fire place. Alot of people would probally go cold if they cant burn there wood and they save up all summer getting wood built up to use in the winter.

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As a retired senior citizen on a fixed income it is necessary for me to supplement my heat source by periodically using wood, therefore I oppose any restrictive/legislative action to reduce or remove my option. I see less and less homes with a smoking chimney so I must assume it is not as popular as a few years ago. By that evidence I find it hard to believe that the problem is increasing and not declining.

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We are in an economic slow down if you haven't noticed. People are out of work and out of money and for you to forbid people to have burn wood to heat their homes is absolutely ridiculous. I am sick and

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tired of governmental agencies telling us what we can and can't do. On the most part people have cleaner wood stoves and those that don't probably can't afford them. Also you tend to alert us that there will be a problem before there even is one and forbid us to heat our homes. You are hurting the elderly and the poor and those of us out of work but then again people know you don't care.

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Oh and by the way how much of our tax payer dollars did you waste mailing out these postcards, setting up your agency and making this website???

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I like how the agency is in Seattle, that says alot. How about having the agency in Puyallup if there is such a problem here. Oh that's right Seattle thinks it runs all of Washington. They do seem to find ballots in the back of trunks. I think you should mind your own business. It's funny how when unemployment is over 9% you decide to do something else to us to make it hard to live. My solution, revisit this when people are back to work and actually aren't living on a prayer.

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Make it easier to report burn ban abusers. It seems the burn ban is never enforced.

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I don't burn wood - but I support the city cracking down. I understand if it is someone's only source of heat - but if not it should be limited. I have friends who just bought property and they burn all the time - they didn't even know there was such a thing as a ban, why we would need a ban, and what they can do in the mean time... so annoying... I checked during the last time they burned to see if a ban was on - I was going to turn them in! HA! It just seems poeople want to enjoy nice clean air, but they don't want to feel responsible for it. This probably wasn't as helpful as you'd like - but I support whatever measures you take, including all of the above as described on your website! Thanks!

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If wood is seasoned properly - the emissions should be minimal - I have a certified wood stove and use it for my sole heating source - please use burn bans as a last resort. thank you.

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Enough!!! This proposed regulations are going to way to far. More of big government sticking their noses into people's daily lives. Stay the heck out of people's lives. I rarely burn a fire but these things you're proposing would make even that difficult. The air is just fine for the average person. Let the VERY few people that have problems breathing the air deal with the cost of ultra purifying their air ... don't shove the cost onto the rest of us!!!

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We went through this in Tacoma. The voters were asked to allow an agency to control and enforce wood burning stoves. We were told those who had an EPA certified stove would be exempt. As soon as it was in it didn't matter what you had. the burn bans went on and even the EPA stoves were affected. Gullible public fell for the lies again. The bans kept getting more frequent and longer. The only reason there was any fuss from the govenment is the traditional sources of energy had taxes on them and revenue was going down. Permits are also another way of intruding where they have no business being and using the law to steal even more funds from us.

I am opposed to and will vote against any and all regulatory attempts on wood stoves. It is time to take a close look at anything the environmentalists come up with. They are very good at crying "wolf" at everything and we are stuck with the results of their short sighted nonsense. I will only take them seriously when they foot the bill for the added expenses they create . And no tax increases either. In simple language, mind your own business and leave us alone. I stood in uniform to protect this nation from a government that is growing like a cancer. [name]

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We have a wood-burning fireplace which we use for pleasure, not heat, and we do pay close attention

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to burn bans. I hope there isn't a movement to ban regular fireplaces as well. I have lived in this area all my life, and have always enjoyed a cozy fire as a way to deal with the gray days and long nights and rainy weather. PLEASE do not do away with wood-burning fireplaces!!

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I am 52 years old , and have lived in Pierce County my entire life. The air today is at least a 100 times cleaner than it was when I was growing up. I feel the current wood burning policy works fine, and does not require a lot of regulation or cost to your bosses, us taxpayers. Please keep in mind, all the money your agency spends comes from the private sector of our economy and takes away money that would be used to create jobs. I'm happy with the current air quality,good job, mission accomplished. Please do what you can to cut your budget and keep regulations to a minimum.

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I think that enhanced enforcement is a good idea, though it will probably be more expensive. Having an online burn reporting system would be helpful if neighbors need to report burning during a ban. Removing a stove at time of sale is a good idea and easy to enforce. Requiring stoves to be removed by a certain date seems hard to enforce. Few people will do this if there is no consequence. What about requiring a license for a stove? Just like a car, registering a wood stove, paying a fee, and having to renew annually.

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My next door neighbor's stove &/or fireplace has caused me breathing issues since I moved here in 2001 & the requirement in the reporting law for no anonymity when reporting violations enables him to continue the behavior. As we both own our homes, I believe reporting him under current law would likely start a neighborhood feud so I've basically physically suffered every fall & winter since 2001. I see it as quite similar to our drug laws, could you imagine having any success if the dealer was told who reported him or her? Tacoma in general seems to have the worst wood smoke problem of any city I've ever lived in (Bellevue, Seattle, Renton, Olympia & Tacoma). I'm going to try to come tonight also, but in case I can't I've been wanting to submit this for years. If you wish to contact me, my # is xxx-xxx-xxxx. I live in the Northend; just off 26th & Pearl Street.

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It seems to me that the main pollution problem is traffic. There is no reason to go so far as to involve anything else until the car emission problem is eliminated. Nothing else contributes anywhere near the degree as all of the traffic. People should be able to have a fire in their fireplace or, except for exceptionally dry periods of time, outdoors. Also, what about barbeques? Don't like them either?

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I think that this is a good idea if you stick to what is stated above. It would be great if we could cut down on pollution, but we need to be very careful to make the changes gradual enough that people who have wood stoves can afford to change them out. (I personally do not have a wood stove or burn wood myself, but I know that if I did, I would not be in a position to suddenly make such a large purchase). Burn bans can be effective, but I believe there needs to be a better system for notifying people when they are in effect (text message, email notifications?). I agree that there should be exemptions made for people who burn wood as their only source of heat and for campgrounds.

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I have many neighbors who have shared with me that they would be unable to pay there morgages or have enough food to eat if they were not allowed to burn wood. extra enforcement is a terrible idea it would only cause my community even more troble in a down and suffering economy. Please dont spend any more money looking into night enforecement or monotoring. Money would be better spent on buying replacement wood stoves for people who cant afford to upgrade. my guess is that most of the wood burning comes from people and familys who cant afford any other heat source. Wood burning takes a lot more work than other type of heat. These are not lazy people. These are people who cant

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afford to lose more money or the security of owning their home. Knowing that they can stay where they are because they can pay their bills by working harder burning wood. The wealthier areas probably don't have the same problems other poorer areas have. Let's help out and not hurt!!!!

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This year the federal government is requiring power companies to generate energy from "clean" sources. Which means consumers can expect higher energy bills this winter. Coupled with the lack of steady employment and a fixed income some consumers could literally be left out in the cold. There needs to be alternatives to this. More energy production from reliable sources of energy should have been done earlier. But politicians more concerned with environmental extremists than the public well being have been crapping out on doing things like this. If this happens and people die of exposure this winter who is going to be blamed?

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1) Prohibiting fireplaces in new construction is a start. 2) One should also consider restrictions on cars, buses, trucks and industry in times of polluted air and burn bans. 3) For retired people, such as my wife and me, our fixed income does not keep up with inflation. To help us through expensive energy needs in the winter we use our wood stove to keep us comfortable. A total ban on burning would be a hardship for us.

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I like the aforementioned wood burning stove solutions as they sound reasonable. I also think it is important to start planting more indigenous trees (Evergreens) in the area as a whole and impartially along the freeway's and bi-ways. I am unsure if the school districts have upgraded the school bus system to a cleaner fuel source or not but it would help. A gross polluter hotline/ web link or text line would help identify vehicles that are exceeding the emission standards. I frequently see gross polluter's on the road and often idling their vehicles. Increase energy efficiency standards on homes that are resales. Resales should be as energy efficient as the newer homes sold within reason. Increase use of solar energy--incentives for older homes with wood burning stoves to upgrade. ( It is said that you can get at least 5 -50% of the summer solar energy production during the winter in cloudy area's) Partner with healthcare providers in educating the public about the importance of clean indoor and outdoor air quality. If wood burning stoves are polluting outside you can bet the indoor air quality is just as bad if not worse.

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I am hoping by sharing my personal experience, I can help underscore the impact that the inversion with fine particulates issue has on our population. My husband and I have lived in the north end of Tacoma for 15 years. And we have come to a clear understanding of what it means to your health to stay in Tacoma during the winter. We can actually predict our level of comfort/symptoms (symptoms that we did not have prior to moving to Tacoma) for any given night during the winter months depending on whether we are dealing with a light or heavy inversion -- or no inversion, in which case we are rewarded with symptom-free restful sleep -- and the energy that goes along with that.

In 2000, I was diagnosed with stage I Hodgkins cancer. I had no history of any lung-related problems, including allergies or asthma, nor any family history of cancer. I have never smoked. My doctors recommended the standard treatment - surgery, radiation, chemotherapy. I decided not to sign up for treatment. At that time, I was already suspecting that something in the environment was causing my respiratory/immune system to fail. I was able to resolve the cancer without treatment (e.g. all symptoms gone, clean X-rays) by incorporating xi gong and an anti-inflammatory diet -- and by keeping my window closed. Winter moved to spring and summer and I regained my original strength/health.

Next winter, I still had occasional wheezing/chest pain episodes. By this time, I had made the connection to my symptoms and the cloudy skies (symptoms were particularly severe and neither of us

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slept well if it was a serious inversion lasting many days). The third winter, I had severe enough symptoms to have a chest xray done. There was a large mass in my lung and they were afraid it was lung cancer (the mass had developed quickly -- just 6 months prior to my xray that summer). They ran a biopsy and the mass was negative. I was still struggling at that time to find answers and asked my doctor why these things always seemed to happen in the winter, to which she replied that they couldn't be certain that the events were related. There was no doubt in my mind that they were in fact related. I refused any further treatment/tests and instead repeated my dietary and xi gong regimen -- and moved to a location further west from the port and wood-burning locations, which may have also contributed to my rate of healing. I received a clean xray the following fall -- the mass, like the Hodgkins cancer, had resolved on its own.

Although I am able to keep my immune system leveraged thru diet and exercise, I can definitely tell the difference in my health during the winter months (esp. December-January). In December of 2007, we had a particularly bad inversion that lasted for approx. 2 weeks, right after the city announced that we were failing EPA standards. I once again had serious asthma-like symptoms (remember, this is a healthy person with no asthma history). I told my husband I wasn't going to sacrifice my lungs for Tacoma's air and industry. And I left. And my lungs returned to normal. All my asthma-like symptoms (wheezing, chest pain, shortness of breath) stopped as soon as I left the Seattle/Tacoma basin -- I mean, it was immediate. I lived in Forth Collins, Colorado for the next 2 years, symptom-free, only returning to Tacoma when the economy crashed and we could no longer afford 2 residences. It is the 3rd winter since returning to Tacoma and I am once again experiencing respiratory issues as soon as the inversions start up.

What I learned from all of this: if I start having serious wheezing issues during the winter here, I need to leave -- or pay the consequences. How I afford to do this is still unclear -- but the cost of staying is ultimately clear. My guess is that a lot of diagnosed respiratory disease, cancer, asthma, circulation issues and gastrointestinal issues can be resolved simply by leaving Tacoma for the winter and going to a locale where there is not the deadly pollution/inversion factor.

How many people in Tacoma are being diagnosed with cancer or some other disease during the winter, when in fact their disease might resolve simply by leaving the polluted air? If you speak to nurses and physicians in Tacoma, they will tell you that people are definitely getting respiratory diseases and cancer resulting from the air pollution and inversions. But they won't tell you that your personal case of lung cancer or Hodgkins or blood clots or esophageal cancer or leukemia or stroke or heart attack was likely caused by pollution. Nor will they tell you -- or believe -- that you might in fact, resolve your medical issues simply by leaving the dirty air for cleaner air for a period of time.

We have to make it personal for people to understand that this is not just about statistics, nor is it something that affects only children, elderly and those with weakened immune systems. There are solid numbers of people every winter in Tacoma going through expensive, highly invasive medical treatments, many with significant long-term side effects -- only because they are being inundated with fine particulates during winter months. Not because of pre-existing conditions. Not because of genetics. Not because of a bad diet or being overweight or stressed or depressed or having high cholesterol (although our health will certainly benefit from addressing those issues). It's simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

As you probably know, The American College of Cardiologists were able to confirm a couple years back that just a single acute fine particulate exposure significantly increases ER reported instances of strokes/heart attacks within 2 hours of exposure (including totally healthy adults with no previous conditions). The significance of fine particulate pollution exposure -- both acute and chronic -- on

mortality rates has long been underestimated. In California, they now attribute 24,000 deaths annually to breathing fine particulate pollution. What is Tacoma's estimated annual death rate due to breathing fine particulate pollution? And what about the rates of diagnosed cancer and lung disease due to fine particulate pollution? We deserve to know that. We need to know that.

I have long believed that we are not doing enough to educate our population so that they care enough to push for stronger air standards while figuring out how to take safe measures for their own health. We have to make it personal. Similar to the "Smoking cigarettes may cause cancer" warning label, we need to play hard ball and have "Breathing our air may cause..." brochures in physician offices -- and buy-in from the medical community to at least mention the possibility of pollution being a key (and perhaps even the key) factor in their patient's medical issues.

I also think that the medical community and the people they serve do not believe that patients can positively impact their health to any great degree by moving to a better air climate, when in fact, relief and healing can begin immediately upon removal of that patient from the fine particulate matter causing their condition. Tacoma has the misfortune of having two strikes -- frequent/heavy winter inversions and heavy particulate matter. We could take either one and run with it, but the two together is robbing our population of their health. Historically, one of the recommendations physicians had for patients was to move away from a highly industrial, polluted area. Now, they just sign you up for treatment. We need to somehow communicate that as long as we have this severe particulate pollution problem, high risk individuals should consider removing themselves from the heavy winter particulate exposure.

I guess I'm just trying to weigh in, not as a number but as a Tacoma resident, who has successfully walked away from cancer diagnoses -- by walking away from Tacoma's winter air. If people believe that they can affect their health that directly and actually reverse the effects of particulate pollution they are experiencing, then we may get a stronger buy-in -- from both its residents and its officials -- of the urgency surrounding the need to sacrifice certain luxuries and embrace stricter regulations in order to bring clean air to Tacoma's winters and reduce mortality and disease rates in Tacoma and Pierce County.

I also think it is important that whatever strategies we apply towards the future reduction of emissions during inversions, we owe it to our community to let them know that for right now, if they are experiencing any number of respiratory issues -- and really cardio and potentially other medical conditions -- that they \*may\* experience immediate relief and concurrent healing by removing themselves from the pollution during our heavy inversion months. Mayo clinic knows this. The American College of Cardiologists know this. The American Lung Association knows this. The EPA knows this. But no one is directly communicating this important life-saving information to individuals who are showing up with winter respiratory symptoms at their physician's office.

With respect to stricter regulations, Puget Sound has a very powerful edict -- that we are not allowed to directly negatively impact the health of our community by what we do on our property. Because it was written in a very general way, it can now be interpreted as "if you can smell the smoke from your neighbor's fireplace, then they are impacting your health and the regulation can be enforced." We need to take this a step further. We now know that even if we don't smell the wood smoke, it is negatively impacting our collective health in a tremendous way. Wood smoke has no place where it can collect and pool (in a basin such as ours, for example), especially -- but not exclusively -- during inversion periods. Some of the most compelling evidence regarding fine particulates and community health is when industrial operations have been shut down for even short periods and the subsequent effect it had on the reduction of mortalities during those periods: "When Dublin imposed a coal ban, when Hong Kong imposed reductions in hydrogen sulfide emissions, when there was a steel mill strike in Utah... they saw

immediate reductions in deaths.” (quote is from a May 22, 2008 Los Angeles Time article by Janet Wilson). Which is a reminder that, whatever we do regarding the wood burning situation, we cannot ignore the industrial side of this equation.

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1) Aren't wood burning fireplaces a problem too? I stopped burning wood in my fireplace many years ago, due to the poor air quality it causes both in my house and for others in my neighborhood and county, regardless of air inversions or stagnant air. 2) How effective are burn bans? Do enough people hear/read about bans and are enough people compliant? 3) What about requiring a permit or registration for all wood burning, like in fireplaces, not just stoves?

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1. The Los Angeles region had a very successful "hotline" program where the public would call in to report smokey vehicles, etc. I lived there about 12 years ago and still remember the hotline phone number (1-800-CUT-SMOG). I suggest something similar so you can use the eyes (and nose) of all the residents to help the cause. 2. Open up the stove replacement program to more zip codes besides the City of Tacoma and unincorporated Pierce County. 3. From where I live I can see very smokey fires on Fox Island when people are burning brush, garbage, etc. You may try focusing some attention on those issues. I have had rural folks report to me of fires where people are burning tires, etc. 4. Two former residents in my neighborhood used to have the most foul smelling smoke coming from their chimneys. I found out after they both happened to moved last year that they had been burning household garbage, plastic, pressure treated wood, roofing shingles, etc. If there was an easy to find phone number to call I am sure you would have had half the neighborhood call to report it (see item #1 above).

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I think we should be allowed to burn as the rules state now. It seems that when the weather is the coldest are when we are not allowed to burn anyway because of stagnant air. If you go to no burning in uncertified stoves then you should help pay a significant amount of the cost to replace the present stove and the wood if it cannot be burnt.

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Very Interesting; I just had a visitor from Pennsylvania who lived here 10 years ago, and he commented, over and over through his week long visit, how much the air quality had improved since he moved out of the area. For myself, living on the water and having a clear view down towards Olympia from Pt. Defiance, what I've noticed over the last 8 years, is that the brownish smog that used to be evident, has almost completely cleared away. I'd say that continually raising the standards is pretty foolish.

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I would like to see burning bans strictly enforced. As an avid runner who lives in Tacoma, I worry about the quality of the air I'm breathing, especially in the winter. Many of my neighbors burn fires in their chimneys/woodstoves during the winter, even during burn bans. I'm reticent to confront them directly, but if there was a hotline or way I could contact the city/county, that would help. Sometimes the smoke is so bad in our neighborhood that you can't even tell where/how many chimneys it's coming from. I'm also concerned about the 24/7 plume coming from the pulp mill. Since it is self-monitoring and the Dept. of Ecology rarely goes on site, I think the city/county would be wise to invest in its own monitoring system. My neighborhood rarely gets hit with overwhelming odors from the mill, but the people downtown and along the I-5 corridor must really suffer. Thanks,[name]

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The information on this site lacks sufficient science. When looking at the chart provided showing the pollution level since 2002 the line only saw a major reduction from 2009 - 2010. The use of wood as a primary source of heating has gone down year over year and most new homes do not have a wood burning stove. Yet the chart does not reflect this.

Will there be provisions for homes with multiple heat sources to keep their wood burning options for

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power outages or in the event their furnace fails? Will the permits issued to those homes that use wood as a primary source have to pay for the permit? In many cases people are continuing to burn wood because of the cost of installing a gas furnace or the cost of electricity and this is just additional cost if we subsidize the replacement. This will just be an additional burden on the tax payer to support and maintain this wasteful program. Mentions of subsidizing the replacement of older wood burning stoves or making them inoperable are an infringement on the powers of government. Where is the industrial effort as this is the only constant in air quality?

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Our certified wood stove has brought our family closer together. We've had it about 4 years and we hang out together in the "front room" all winter with no TV....just us, because we all enjoy the heat and the fire...there's just something really cozy about it. Before, it was TV every night. I think there should not be extra restrictions put on wood stoves beyond what is out there now. We abide by burn bans, as we have gas heat and we don't want to get asthma any more than anyone else. I think Pierce Counties focal areas for improving air quality are already spot on.....replace all uncertified wood stoves with certified ones, and most importantly, ENFORCE THE BURN BANS. I know several people with alternate heat sources who snub their noses at the burn ban and burn away, though we can see the heavy layer of smog accross the valley between Puyallup and Tacoma. If burn bans were actually enforced, and word got out that "Hey, people are actually getting FINED!", I think that would be phenomenal in improving winter air quality.

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We love our neighbors, but they have a wood burning stove that puts off a LOT of smoke. Our daughter has asthma and when they are using their woodburning stove, she can't even go outside. It's a bummer. It's not like we can ask them to stop heating their home, since we suspect they use the stove to heat their home and reduce costs. It would only cause a bad rift anyway...I wish there was a way to address the issue - maybe their stove is not even compliant?

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I have been held hostage in my home by toxic emissions from wood stoves in my neighborhood for the past almost 8 years. I would suggest that yearly emission tests are required as well as mandatory professional chimney cleaning at least once a year. Ideally, wood stoves and fire places should be banned altogether because most home owners/renters ignore the regulations for such heat sources. Also, the inspectors should drive around the areas known for high pollution levels on a regular basis to actually see what is going on. Burn bans are not unknown by many but simply ignored. The polluters in my neighborhood have other heat sources but choose to not use those because wood is cheaper. Many burn treated or wet wood during the night.

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I live next door to a home that appears to use wood burning as their primary source of heat. During the fall-spring I am forced to have all my windows and doors closed to keep the smell out. It is so intense that I know it can't be healthy for me. I would greatly appreciate some enforcement of/ replacement of wood burning fireplaces.

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A few weeks ago smoke from a wood fire inundated the interior of the school where I work. Apparently it entered through the ventilation system. So there were about 350 students plus staff who were forced to breathe smoke for about an hour that day. To me, this is unacceptable. What can be done about wood fires near schools or other buildings where many people are affected?

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You have no business shutting down people's ability to use firewood to heat their homes. How dare you try to tell me how to keep warm in the winter in this climate when our electricity rates are too high and so many of us are unemployed. How in the world do you expect people to pay their heating bills in a

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bad winter in this economy. Wood gives us the option to keep our houses warm and bills down. which do you want, not pay our heating bills or eat? not pay our mortgage bills and heat our houses? which is it. This is a tremendous burden you will put on people who are already struggling. Shame on you.

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I rented a house because it was advertised to have a heat pump. After getting settled in I came to find out the heat pump unit had not worked for quite some time and I was to use the "emergency heat" option. Didn't take long at all to figure out I could not afford this source of heat and was forced to use the woodburning stove, which I find filthy and have a hard time heating the house with beyond that particular room. Perhaps you could persuade my landlord to repair the heat pump so I can efficiently heat my home and not contribute to the air pollution problem....

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We have a fireplace and enjoy a fire occasionally through the winter season. This is usually on a Saturday night.....maybe 10-12 times through the entire year. Notification to homeowners when burn bans are in place is significantly important so that we know when we should and shouldn't have a fire. I don't believe we are the problem. I believe the problem is with those who refuse to use their installed electric/gas furnace (for whatever reason) and just burn.

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We have lived here for 14 years and each year the air quality has gotten worse and worse especially in the winter with everyone burning their fireplaces and wood stoves. Some have smoke coming out of the chimneys that darkens the whole neighbor hood and it smells like they are burning garbage. We hardly can stand outside when we let our dog out. My husband has congestive heart failure and I have severe allergies . I also think every one needs to have their fireplaces and wood stoves certified. Thank you

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We have an installed certified wood burning fireplace insert which supplements our oil furnace. Our house is large, built in the mid-sixties, and difficult to keep warm, regardless of the storm windows. We are retired and living on a limited income, as are most of our friends. Some of our friends and neighbors also have wood burning supplemental heat sources. Our last oil bill was more than \$600 dollars and that will probably be about one-third of what we will pay for oil to survive the winter, even with the wood burning insert. Granted, air pollution is becoming a larger problem in this area, but it most definitely is not limited to wood smoke. There is far too much traffic on our roads (due in part to the unwise choices our county leaders have made in regard to land use) and as we all know, exhaust is far more toxic than wood smoke.

We would suggest that Pierce County worry more about the vehicle emission problem it has created following the devastation of our forests and farm lands. Dirty air is in great part a "gift" to the citizens from the county council and lawmakers. As most people know forests and open spaces actually clean the air; legislation doesn't. Please look elsewhere for solutions to the clean air problems, and leave the poor and the elderly alone to keep warm as best they can. We'll do what we can to cooperate, but we're most definitely not going to freeze to death, thank you.  
Respectfully, Mr. and Mrs. [name]

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I HAVE LIVED AT [address] in TACOMA WA 98404 FOR 41 YEARS.EVERY YEAR THE AIR GETS WORSE, ESPECIALLY STARTING IN OCTOBER, WHEN MOST OF THE RESIDENTS HERE CRANK UP THEIR WOOD BURNERS I.E. OLD JUST WOOD BURNERS. UNCERTIFIED, FIREPLACES, PATIO WOOD BURNERS. AS LONG AS TACOMA LAND USE OFFICE LETS RESIDENTS CUT DOWN TREES ON THERE OWN PROPERTY WITHOUT PERMISSION, THERE WILL BE NO TREES TO HELP CLEAN THE AIR.WHEN COLD COMES , MY WIFE AND I CLOSE ALL OUR WINDOW BECAUSE THE SMELL COMES IN OUR HOUSE. WE HAVE A HARD TIME BEATHING HERE IN TACOMA AND FOR HEALTH WE MIGHT HAVE TO MOVE OUT OF TACOMA AND PIERCE COUNTY. ALOT OF OUR FRIENDS HAVE ALREADY MOVED TO ANOTHER COUNTY OR STATE. MY

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DAUGHTER AND HER SONS GET ASTHMA BECAUSE OF WOOD BURNING AND OTHER THINGS IN THE AIR. WE ALMOST LOST HER ONCE WITH A ASTHMA ATTACK. SHE HAS BEEN IN EMERGENCY NUMERIOUS TIMES. NON OF THESE CITY RESIDENCE HAVE TO BURN WOOD. THEY DO IT BECAUSE ITS EASY AND CHEAP TO GET. THEY EVEN BURN THEIR GARBAGE, BECAUSE THE LARGER CONTAINER ARE SO EXPENSIVE. STOP BURNING IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND ENFORCE THE WOOD BURNING LAWS AND BURNING BANDS, BECAUSE THEY ARE ALL IGNORED, IT HAS BEEN GETTING WORSE EVERY YEAR. SPECIAL NOTE , ALL COUNTIES SHOULD GET EMISSION TESTED, BECAUSE THEY USE PIERCE COUNTY ROADS, HIWAYS, ETC. TO GO TO WORK, VISIT, TO EVENTS, VACATIONS, ON AND ON. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

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I feel this is not a real issue,as I don't beleive wood smoke is the worst offender in an inversion. People in the 20th century in citys mostly all heated with wood, or coal. The air was most likely real bad those days. Today not near the people heat with wood, and really none with coal, and there is so many other pollutants put in the air today, one being thousands of diesel engines in pierce county alone. If wood burning people use dry,seasoned good wood, and burn a fairly hot fire, then it doesn't effect the air much, and there is virtually no smoke,or smell. I know, I have done it for years. Man has lived with wood fires since the cave man days, and I don't think it should stop on account of trumped up claims,trying to scare the public into thinking that if they can smell a fire, it is killing them. When they outlaw forest fires, then they can start on wood stoves. A forest fire puts out more pollution most likely then 10 years worth of pierce county wood stoves burning. Thank you

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This is an insult to my intelligence and just another way of government trying to control how we do things whether in our home or business. Now! I have been made to understand that we are not going to have to have our cars tested anymore here in Pierce County as the air quality is good. Which is it? I DO NOT want you doing anything with our pellet or wood burning stoves. Mind your own [expletive] business and take the EPA and stick it. Is this clear enough about how I feel along with others in my neighborhood about you trying to control what we do in our homes and how we live. I'm sick of it!

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In these tough economic times further restrictions on burning would be unacceptable. I personally know of many people that depend on burning wood as their only heat source and would find it difficult, if not impossible to switch to another source. Please don't leave us out in the cold. Thank You.

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Wood heat is much warmer than electric heat, keeps the home warmer longer, also more comfortable than gas heat. Forced air moving around makes me cough, so I keep my electric heat at a low temp and where warmer clothes. Guess what - wood stoves are the only source of heat for those of us who live in rural areas during power outages. Do we get to use them if conditions are inverse? In reality most people don't burn their woodstoves all day - only on weekends or maybe evenings.

The practice of using the 'captive' homeowner who is selling their property as the target is very unfair. Sellers have a lot of costs and don't need more. With most sellers taking a loss in these economic times, where is the money? Will bank owned homeowners comply? Of course not. They'll pass the monkey on to buyers. Most of the fowl air is over the tideflats. Don't you think that should be the priority? There are too many ways for polluters to avoid complying.

Another option is to teach people how to burn properly with hot fires and not dappen down to the point there is a lot of smoke. Incentives to replace non certified woodstoves or inserts should be available to all, not just the poor and would be a better choice than enforcing compliance at sales. Why county wide? A lot of us live on rural acreage and education should be a priority for these people. City of Tacoma, City of Puyallup, Lakewood, etc. - different story.

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I burn wood to save on my power bills. With the rising cost of everything, It would be a bad idea to force me to use pellets, or electric. It is too expensive. During these difficult economic times I need to save money every where I can, and burning wood to heat my home is one of those ways.

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I live in the Key Peninsula area and it is not uncommon to be without power for a week to ten days during the winter months. Heating with gas is not an option since it is not available in my area and a pellet stove needs electricity. I can only speak for myself but I have no desire to spent a week or more without a heat source. Also, with the amount of rain we receive during the fall and winter months I am quite sure the particles you refer to are taken care of with the rain.

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I'm all in favor of better enforcement of the existing law and regulations regarding burning in Pierce County. I frequently see smoke from inefficient wood stoves or fireplaces and poorly-tended or illegal outdoor fires, even on burn ban days, on the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas. I do not favor a complete ban on outdoor burning, however. For people in rural areas of the county, including Herron Island where I have a house, properly-tended fires are often the best way to dispose of fir and other branches that if left on the ground could provide fuel for a brush or forest fire. I would propose enforcing the existing rules efficiently before launching on a round of new rule-making.

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I attended the Open House on thursday Oct.20...Please consider the following as my comment: I understand that wood smoke is considered a serious air pollution problem in Pierce County, which can cause serious health problems. Therefore I recommend:

1. That decision made by government at all levels consider wood smoke problems that may be caused by decisions they make...including the decisions made to allow forest fires burn without taking aggressive efforts to extinguish them. If wood smoke is a health problem it is whether caused by lightning or by man. After all man is a part of nature and has been using fire for heat since he discovered fire.
  2. That stepped up education be made before considering added restrictions. I suggest the following:
    - a. A hotline be set-up to answer questions...manned by a real person.
    - b. Patrols be made to contact people burning wood where smoke is visible.
    - c. Contact be made with firewood providers to enlist their help in education efforts on keeping wood dry and burning with low smoke.
  3. Priority be given to high problem areas in education and use of monetary assistance funds. thank you for this opportunity to comment, [name]
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Hello! My daughter lives in an apt. complex in Puy., with fireplaces. She received one of your postcards with information about your open house(s). Our household did not. We do not have a chimney, but do have compromised health from the air quality in our YARD from the many chimneys nearby! I certainly hope victims of people's OBSESSION with burning fires (summer AND winter) will be included in this discussion!!!!

I cannot make the open house tonight. I do expect that my thoughts and all those like us with houses full of chimney smoke, that have asthma & not notified, be heard. All of the above goals and strategies are sorely needed. The concern I have is, that all those that don't get their chimneys cleaned, burn garbage, and burn on burn ban days (ALL occurring in our neighborhood), the ones who think laws don't apply to THEM, will have more input. We need to implement everything suggested above, plus more, NOT LESS. I want to live in a county that cares about my health as much as it cares about people who don't care at all.

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I know some people who burn with wood to heat their homes, they burn dry wood with a proper air

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mixture.They and their families are warm,if you are responsible with wood you keep your family warm,that is a good thing.I think most people try and do things the right way if not maybe you folks could educate those who may need it on how to burn the right way.

I look around and see imense waste of taxpayer resources from those who make their living from their neighbors pockets.People are screaming about it ,yet it continues.On the waterfront,black and grey smoke come out of international ships, as well as from the massive machines ripping up good roads and rebuilding them just to get to fulfill a contract that the taxpayers are footing.What is horrible about all this is that those people are left alone,or at least it seems that way, but the folks who have the least and who's voice doesn't really matter is the one who might be forced to give up his ability to heat his home from nature, and to have to pay the very high bills it requires you to pay if you heat your home from the monopolies in the Puget Sound area.If you think gas heat is cheap,it is not.

We are all for being responsible with heating your home,shipping,construction or taxpayer resources the government uses.We just feel sorry for our fellow citizens who like us all are suffering in a terrible economy are now having to face losing the ability to heat there home the way millions of people have done and do it around the world.I just get the feeling if the rich and powerful were on their side this would not be an issue.You have the power,so please make the best decision for all the people not just those who have money or who can articulate a view you folks agree with.Thank you. Best to you all.

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Air quality is a great concern in Peirce county. There have been many winter mornings where the air is caustic burning eyes and noses and causing coughing. Not to mention the hazy blue-gray smoke wafting through the air creating visibility issues. A significant body of evidence indicates myriad deleterious health effects of wood smoke. I find my one and a half year old, coughing on these smoky hazy days. I find myself keeping her in the house which is a tall order for an active toddler. However I am very concerned about her risk of asthma and other respiratory conditions from this smoke exposure.

We have a wood fire place, we choose windy days when weather systems are changing to use the fire place. During other winter days we use electric and natural gas heat. There is no excuse for causing a threat to public health. Fixed income and houses with "wood heat only" are red herrings. Anyone can afford a safe electric heater, that will heat only the living spaces being occupied.

Wood burning on stagnate air days must be outlawed! There must be enforcement by the police agencies and this must be a priority! Police should knock on doors and issue fines! Just because the harm an individual is causing to another, or in this case a community, is delayed does not mean the assault is any less serious. Police agencies should quickly respond to citizen complaints of non compliance with burn bans in hours not days. Fines should be graduated by offense, however there must be steep fines for multiple offenders. Fines need to be set in the thousands of dollars for multiple offenders.

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In years past as the EPA established clean air standards, our area consistently surpassed their standards, with cleaner air than they deemed healthy. They responded by demanding even more stringent rules, and again we had cleaner air levels than what the EPA asked for. Burning wood is a natural right of our citizens. My neighbor absolutely relies on heating his home with wood. People burn responsibly, and for the most part comply when burn bans are imposed when air quality diminishes during winter inversions. Burning is also beneficial in reducing insect devastation to our trees, and minimizes available fuel for slash fires in our forests. It is a natural and renewable resouce, and abundant in our region.Not to burn wood seems foolish and punitive. The best course of action is to relax the EPA standards, and to ask the citizens for voluntary compliance during the thermal inversions. Perhaps your unelected bureaucracy might lead the way in preventing such inversions. In short the Government is way overstepping it's

authority, and talks of removing people's stoves sounds tyrannical. To be so over-reaching in the name of "cleaner air for the public welfare", might just invite many to burn in a backlash of resistance. Our region and its people have survived thermal inversions in the past and will continue to do so in the future. I know several people with severe asthmatic conditions, who like other allergy sufferers know that there will be a few tough days most years, but we all get through them.

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We need to move to cleaning the air. It seems that more and more people are coming up with breathing problems. We need to ban burning altogether. Also know that scented laundry soaps are vented out dryer vents and when the air is stale the scent hangs around. These are chemical odors that can trigger breathing problems. When I leave this area to go to the mountains the first thing I notice is that I can breathe easier.

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By the looks of the publicity your agency is sponsoring in the newspaper and the postcards it is apparent that your goal is to ban all wood burning in stoves, fireplaces, etc. I feel this would be a huge overreach and would cause no end of animosity among a great many of your constituents. I believe the current system of using burn bans when necessary is more than sufficient to limit wood smoke pollution and that a ban on woodburning beyond the burn bans is an unnecessary step that will engender fierce opposition, especially among people who may wish to reduce their heating bills a little at a time when money is tight and families are having to find as many ways as possible to limit spending. Let's be smart. This is no time to bring the hammer down on these people and those who wish to have an occasional fire in their fireplaces on a dark, cold and wintry night.

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I think you guys are overstepping your boundaries with trying to make people not burn wood. It has been done for years and has not made our world any different. Just think humanity has been burning wood since we were made, like 1 BC. So if it really was doing that much damage then we would all be dead. There is more deadly fumes from cars, cigs, port of Tacoma, trains, and so on. In my family we have burned wood because it was a way to save money, and it is a good workout obtaining the wood. There is nothing better than sitting by a warm fire that you worked for, on a cold day, and enjoying a warm cup of cocoa. I just think that all the effort you guys are putting into banning burning should be put into some of the bigger problems in Pierce County. Like the dumping of chemicals and garbage into our sound. Thank you for reading and hope I gave you a different perspective. PS. Sorry I don't spell well, my profession is with numbers. [name], home owner.

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I agree with the suggested steps toward amelioration, preferring the setting of a date certain for banning the use of all uncertified wood stoves and other air-polluting devices. Those of us who, like me, live in unincorporated Pierce County, have little or no protection against air pollution by private parties. As for outdoor burning, it should be banned completely throughout the county. Why should the health of all citizens, including those with pulmonary problems, be put at risk, when there are other alternatives for getting rid of slash, yard waste, and trash? When people clear land or cut down trees, having the waste hauled away should be considered part of the project cost. Yard waste can be collected conveniently and economically. We have children in our neighborhood who have asthma and suffer greatly from poor air quality caused by unnecessary wood burning, indoors and out.

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It seems possible the ones to benefit the most from any fireplace/wood stove ban would be the utility companies (both natural gas and electric),

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I believe that incentives for the replacement/conversion of wood stoves and fireplaces will be most effective in conjunction with requirements for replacement of the wood burning device during a home

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sale. Home sales affect a small percentage of the homes especially due to economy and more sales are during the summer rather than the winter. Incentives could range from combined rebate sources such as from local installers/merchandiser/manufacturers to/and a property tax credit. Best source to see what is most effective is from other areas that had to address a correction already.... why re-invent the wheel when there are other areas that have done it already.

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I agree pollution is a problem but what about the people that need to have heat to keep warm for the winter? Some put garbage in the fire with causes stinky pollution. We need heat to get warm in the winter. Electric heat is too expensive for us. We are on a very limited income.

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I am tired of having a running nose,sneezing and feeling tired all winter just because my neighbors enjoy wood stoves or fireplaces the air around here stinks and I can't even have a window open. I hope the problem can be fixed,I'm not the only one with this problem.

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I personally would like to see an end to wood burning. In dense population areas it should not be allowed. There are too many alternatives today. I do think that improvement can be made. Thank you, [name]

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Careful consideration must be given to families who rely on wood burning to heat their homes. We are responsible with respect to managing our forested property and have a certified wood stove. Several of our elderly or low-income neighbors rely on wood to heat their homes. These families must not be disadvantaged by decisions made in Pierce County. This process feels as if decisions are already made - more transparency is needed and more consideration before stringent enforcement begins.

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I do feel concern over the pollution situation as a nation that we are facing. However, I DO NOT agree with the cessation of wood fireburning places in homes. With the extreme jump in the cost of utilities (especially heating, either propane or electric) Most families, low and middle class depend on the wood burning fireplaces to heat their homes to cut back on the cost of utility bills especially during the cold winter months. With our current government situation concerning the economic situation most families are barely getting by financially. Why after hundreds of years of using a less expensive way to heat our homes would you want or even give thought to making it harder on the residents that YOU took an oath in office to assist and care about and meet their needs. Have not the American people given up a lot already. Please I pray that you will use wisdom on this decision, I am sure there are other areas you can concentrate on without attacking families with wood burning as a means to keep their families warm suffer financially because of the decisions to ridiculously raise the cost of heating homes. Give the American People A BREAK !!!!!

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I WOULD LIKE TO ADD ONE MORE REMARK AND SUGGESTION. CONCERNED ABOUT POLLUTION ? ARE YOU UP IN ARMS OVER THE EFFECTS OF THIS POLLUTION ? WHY NOT GET THE UTILITY COMPANIES TO LOWER THEIR RATES SO FAMILIES CAN AFFORD TO KEEP THEIR HOMES WARM FOR THEIR LOVED ONES FROM THE SMALL CHILDREN TO THE SICK AND ELDERLY ? IF YOU DO THIS THEN THEY CAN STOP THE USE OF WOOD TO HEAT THEIR HOMES. BEFORE YOU DECIDE TO TAKE AWAY AN ECONOMICALLY EASY WAY TO HEAT THEIR HOMES OFFER THEM THE CHOICE OF PAYING LESS ON UTILITIES !!!!! MOST FAMILIES IN YOUR (OUR) COMMUNITY LIVE ON STRICT BUDGETS AS IT IS. IS IT YOUR WISH TO MAKE IT HARDER ON THE RESIDENTS THAT MAKE UP "YOUR COMMUNITY" IF YOU DESIRE TO EXPECT CHANGES FROM THE RESIDENTS THEN WHY NOT EXPECT THE UTILITY COMPANIES TO MAKE CHANGES TO ACCOMODATE OR OFF SET THIS COST ? MRS. [name], UNIVERSITY PLACE WASHINGTON

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THE WORST IS YARD DEBRIS BURNING THAT TAKES PLACE ON LARGER SEMI-RURAL PROPERTIES. They tend to have big GREEN fires that smolder a rank stench for days. I can't open a window on a nice fall or spring day without filling the house with smoke. At my previous res, I heated with a certified stove and used only dry seasoned wood. Two hot fires to warm the appliance and then shut it down to burn the gases.....Unfortunately, that takes educating the user. Good Luck!

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I received a replacement fireplace almost 2 years ago. I took in the picture of my old stove and they showed me choices for a new stove. It was a great experience until the day the guy came out to install it. We were lead to believe we were getting new piping or getting our old pipes cleaned but were told that wasn't going to happen. Oh well. It sucked but the real problem came after he installed it. He ended up using bricks from my walkway to hold the stove up. The front of the stove sticks out about a foot from the wall and the front of the stove is held up by the bricks from the ground to the bottom of the stove. We burned in it one time but whenever we opened or closed the door we felt the stove was unstable and was going to fall forward. The animals aren't allowed downstairs because if they hit the bricks the fireplace will fall forward and possibly out completely. It is an extreme danger so we just don't use it. It hasn't saved us a penny. We end up using our furnace even more and paying for it in the end. I tried contacting the company but was told that we need to find a place that will build some legs for it. They hold absolutely no responsibility even though we brought them in the picture beforehand and they could see there was no hearth on which to set the stove. They were the ones that were supposed to be helping us. They were supposed to help us get one that was usable not just beautiful. They were ones that understood the product better than anyone and should have lead us in the direction of a functional stove for our space. They should have known we were going to have problems prior to us purchasing the item. The installer told us the same thing about having someone build us some legs. I got a low income stove because I don't have the resources to buy a new one. I also don't have the resources to pay for the said legs. Im sure glad my tax dollars are paying for things that are not able to be used. At least with my old fireplace it was useable. The installer also removed all the black surround we had up around the old stove and destroyed it in the process. Therefore all around the beautiful stove you see the ugly cement. Needless to say im completely dissatisfied with what I received. On a good note if you only look directly at the stove thru a frame made out of your hands you see one really beautiful stove. Any questions, please feel free to contact me at the listed email address or you can call me at 253.xxx.xxxx. Thanks, [name]

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please utilize all of the above options for improving our air quality. Science and medicine tells us that continued poor air quality is harming us and our children. I believe we cannot afford to continue our pattern of failure.

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We are already to governed. The public sector is to large and bloated. Public employees are over compensated for the work they do. ENOUGH ALREADY. Get a job in the private sector, where you might do some good.

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Clean air is important for all, however attaining it at the expense of others freedom is wrong. It is nothing less than tyranny to reach the goal of cleaner air by imposing restrictions, permits and fines to those who use wood responsibly to heat there homes. For example, a father of four works 40 hours a week at \$20 dollars an hour to support his family and moves into a new humble home without a fireplace. Now if he is not allowed to install a fireplace to heat his home, he is in effect forced into a contract with the gas/power company and now must pay an extra \$100 a month to keep his family warm. Thus He now has to work a half day Saturday just to pay his heat bill which in turn takes more time away from His wife and children. One might say, "What if we just enforce him to buy a permit for a

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fraction of the cost" - the principal is still wrong and it opens the door for further negative action. This is not loving your neighbor, rather the opposite. Agreed, it is also not loving your neighbor to not be concerned with air quality. However, the greater evil is to in effect further enslave the family in the name of clean air. Let us look to other options to help preserve our air, without punishing the family. Newer more efficient wood stoves are a good option, and so is looking to other sources of air pollution all together. But proposed permits, fines, and restrictions are not loving to one another. No system is perfect nor will it be in this present day and there will be those who abuse their freedom, but let those be handled on a case by case basis and not malign the whole. Let us honor our Creator, let us love one another, let us look to other ideas to preserve clean air.

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The Clean Air task force has a good idea of decreasing the pollution in the air for all Pierce County residents. However requiring permits for burning is not the answer. If a family were to have an efficient wood-burning stove, regardless of their other sources of heat, they should have the right to use this year around despite burn bans. Registration of a wood stove to empower and educate owners would be an effective way to allow those who burn to make wise choices to help the community as a whole. This however, should not be used to track and fine those that choose to burn during the winter months. As the economy continues to plummet more and more families will be looking to heat their homes in a less expensive way. I personally pay nearly \$300 dollars a month to heat our home during the winter months. If my husband and I were to lose our jobs we would not be able to pay our gas bill and heat our house. The requirement of stove removal again is not an answer, unless the task force has a way to help replace the stove with a more efficient one. Many elderly individuals use wood stoves from their youth to heat their homes due to their tight budgets. These people are valued citizens of our community and may not have the finances to replace their stove leaving them "out in the cold". I call the clean air task force to rethink their goals of improving air. How can this task force better support us as a community rather than charging people for permits and taking away rights to burn wood during the winter months while still decreasing the air pollutants?

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I support efforts to clean the air but not with government regulation. If a group of people were so moved to organize and educate those in their vicinity on the beneficial practice of reducing wood smoke emissions and discussed with owners of older wood fire heating devices how they could make a change to improve air quality, I would give my support to such. That is the way of a people to inspire change in their community in a manner respectful to the individual rights of others to choose for themselves. I do NOT agree with any of the options under consideration. Providing for the needs of one's family should not be restricted to government mandates or oversight. I could not find information on the website that provided information on other sources of air pollution and what the overall percentage of pollution from wood-burning fireplaces was specifically. Are there other sources of wood-fire pollution in the county other than residential? What would their contribution be? I cannot believe in this day when most homes are heated via gas or electricity that wood-burning stoves are causing the degeneration of air quality. Over the years wood-fire burning stove use is going down and air pollution is up. People care about their environment. But when no responsibility or education is provided little change will be evidenced. Teach the people how they can help and I believe they will change where and how they can. There are people very interested in the quality of air specifically and they would undoubtedly be interested in spearheading a public education program- that would respect the individual rights and choice of the individual.

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So glad to hear agency, community and residents are getting serious about wood smoke reduction. I love all of the proposals. Of course, I'd prefer no wood smoke burning altogether but realize this is unreasonable. So, I guess I'll have to be happy with cleaner burning. I just hope there can be REAL

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enforcement so there is REAL compliance since the rules (current & future) apply to everyone and not just those who choose to comply. Thank you.

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Anyone with a newer home will be all for "clean air". Everyone with an old home in a cold shady location will be in for a BIG bill and won't want to comply. Heating will simply become un-affordable when an electric bill jumps from \$175 to \$600. Your question should be "How can government make heating both un-affordable and affordable?" And the answer is that if wood burning is prohibited by government, then government will have to subsidize those who are affected by government rules against burning wood for heat.

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I appreciate the work being done to solve this issue, and whole heartedly agree that uncertified wood stoves and fireplace inserts should be removed. Every fall and winter I suffer the effects of my neighbor's wood burning stove, both while I am outside in my yard and also inside the house. Even though his house sits up higher than mine, my furnace intake brings the wood smoke into my living space. Thank you for your work on this.

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An area that doesn't seem to be addressed is WHAT people burn. We have a certified wood stove that is our primary heat. We burn only clean, dry wood which creates no visible smoke. Our neighbor, however, often burns garbage. Not only does this create smoke, but the smell is sometimes unbearable. I have no idea what type of stove our neighbor has. But even with a certified stove, burning garbage creates hazards. Also, burning "green" wood creates heavy smoke. How can this be addressed?

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I completely support the goals of the agency and fully understand the need to control wood smoke when atmospheric conditions trap the stuff in the air we breathe. However, I also understand why some citizens (a lot of citizens?) resent what they see as the heavy hand of environmental laws and actions that they see as an intrusion on their rights. Requiring the surrender of older, inefficient wood stoves falls into that category. Why anger them and make your work even harder? There is a valid political point of view that says as long as I am not causing a problem, I should be able to possess anything I want. Whether it's pot, weapons or a wood stove...the "possession" is not a problem. The way it is used is. The proper and more defensible role of government and its agencies is enforcement, education and motivation. Better enforcement of wood burning bans -- with enhanced fines to cover the cost of that work -- seems to me to be a better role for government. Personally, I'd replace my "smoker" if I had one and wouldn't be troubled by an ordinance prohibiting them, but I may not be typical. Why invite a lot of opposition that will get in the way of trying to control environmental threats? As well, enhanced fines could help fund more user-education programs, and create a program to subsidize lower income people who want to buy new, clean heaters and stoves. In my experience in Pierce County, a lot of the "offending" devices are in the homes of people who might want to comply but who lack the funds to replace the old devices. Hope this helps. Keep up the good work.

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Trees grow very quickly in western Washington and represent a unique source of cheap, renewable and carbon neutral energy for many residents. If the wood stoves could burn more cleanly, it would be a truly green energy source for us. I would like to see the state support manufacturers that develop cleaner burning stoves by developing a state certification requiring the highest standard of clean burning technically feasible and then require all new stoves sold in the state to meet that standard and be so certified. As an example, wood gassification technology is not available on any stove sold in Washington (to the best of my knowledge) yet it is much less polluting than traditional stoves and is readily available on wood boilers sold on the east coast. Continue the incentive replacement program for stoves exceeding the EPA standard and are state certified to the higher standard. In summary, I feel

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we should promote CLEAN wood burning as it is a unique renewable and carbon neutral resource we are blessed with rather than try and stop everyone from burning wood.

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Before I could answer the enhanced enforcement question, I would like to know how much enforcement has been done to this date, and how much the fines were, and where is the revenue from the enforcement spent? Also has the enforcement brought about the replacement of the offending units cited? I thought seeking the replacement of wood burning stoves was for improving the environment over all and not just in areas where air quality is poor. cont.

One of the reasons I replaced my wood burning stove was due to the agency policy to fine anyone \$1000. whose wood burning stove was ceating smoke past twenty minutes. Also my stove was not a certified unit. I really liked the old wood burning stove, it provided a hotter heat than the gas fireplace insert which I replaced it with. I could even cook on the top of it when needed. I believe if more articles appeared in the news paper as to the fines and detriment of wood burning stoves, and the fines associated with them, it would help. I still have several neighbors who burn wood, and I have never seen or heard of any enforcement in my area. [name]

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YES!!! As one who is affected by allergies and asthma, enforcement of the burn bans and replacing old woodstoves, etc. would result in a big improvement in my health and allow me to venture outside and actually breathe!

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Set up a block/neighborhood watch system whereby citizens could report smoke and could expect some response (such as a prompt investigation and a fine) when the rules are violated. Perhaps a small reward for such reports. As to your proposed solutions, it shouldn't be an "either/or" approach. You should implement all the possible solutions. Enforcement and elimination of known bad stoves are necessary for both short and long term success.

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Definitely need more outreach and communication regarding burn bans. Most people around our neighborhood are not even aware that there is such a thing as a burn ban. We also have those who burn outdoors, and it can be quite a nuisance. I don't have any understanding of who to report that to. As for replacing old woodstoves and inserts--a good idea. Date certain is reasonable, with incentives or accommodation for low-income folks who use wood as heat source.

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Enforce the current laws, don't make new ones. You cannot enforce the no excessive smoke laws from behind a desk in a nice warm cushy office. Get rid of a few pencil pushing managers and hire more people for enforcement. Drive around in the cold during a burn ban and actually write tickets, in the middle of the night, to people making smoke. [Expletive] you government people are such a waste and drag on the economy. Get off your [expletive] and go do your jobs. Quit dreaming up new studies and coming up with new ways to justify sitting on your [expletive]. Go out and write tickets.

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Require removal of old wood stoves? Sounds like big brother. How about giving incentives, etc. Please resist the temptation to become a police state if you want us mere citizens to cooperate.

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I vote for the second option. I think it is imperative that a requirement to removed uncertified wood stoves and inserts is instated. I think it would be more effective to require the removal by a certain date, independent of whether there is a sale or not. It is unfair that our neighborhood air is polluted and that my children and I must breath this air, simply because a few neighbors will never move or replace their stoves. I know that in other countries (Germany for sure) it is simply not allowed to have such polluting stoves as a home's source of heat. Wood stoves must be certified and they are subject to

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inspection. The issue of clean air for all supercedes the individual's right to heat their home in their chosen manner.

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-- Some wood stoves built before the certification process burn cleanly, possibly as cleanly as many certified stoves and it would be wasteful, and an undue hardship for some, to require removal based solely on lack of the certification. Before getting heavy-handed with the removal requirement, why not allow the owner of a non-certified stove to do a functional demonstration to show level of emissions. Also consider economic situation of the wood stove owner.

-- I know there are many certified wood stoves that physically degrade over a relatively short period of time and probably do not perform at the level of their certification. How do you propose to address this problem?

-- All wood stoves should be allowed to operate during times of extended electric power failure during cold weather, e.g., 2 hours or more.

-- The published energy efficiency rating of certified stoves is hit-and-miss at best. The salesmen I've encountered only know of, and emphasize, efficiency of the stove to reduce emissions while burning wood. Wood stoves should not be just a wood incinerator, they should have high energy efficiency, with and without electrical assist, i.e., they should be efficient in producing heat by burning wood including at times when there is an electrical power failure. These energy efficiency ratings should be provided at the point of sale. Greater ability of the wood-burning stove to produce heat by burning wood means less wood needs to be burned which will result in lower pollution levels.

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(1) Burning as a way to dispose of trees & brush from land clearing or property cleanup must be eliminated or severely curtailed in UNincorporated areas of Pierce County, especially moderately or heavily populated unincorporated areas. (2) I support removing uncertified wood stoves & inserts when a house is sold & by a date certain. This should be supported by ample notice, education, incentives, subsidies and enforcement. (3) incentives could be supported by taxes or fees on fireplaces, & other wood burning devices, and fees or fines collected whenever the fire dept must be called for discretionary wood burning.

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I have no issue with the burn ban process and your plans for enforcement as I follow the rules.. however, I have an issue with any government entity requiring me to remove a stove or anything in my house that was legally installed. My stove is probably 10 years old and I don't think it is certified to today's standards, but I rarely use it except for when I want to augment my primary source of heat to help keep costs down. If I break the rules, then by all means, I need to be held accountable..I'm an adult and I don't need the county or any government taking something away from me because they think they know better. There are a lot of things in life that could be harmful, but when used responsibly and within the legal guidelines, then there should be no issues or concern by government.

I would like to see the second part -- requiring the removal of uncertified stoves, regardless if by date or at the sell of a home -- removed from the docket as there is already a process in place to enforce the issue. The problem is the cost to do so on the homeowner could be an issue and in today's economy, many of us don't have the discretionary resources to deal with the expense. A lot of us are turned around in hour mortgages and won't have the money in the sale of a house to pay the costs of removal and updates.

I feel that if you break the law, then you pay the price.I subscribes to the alerts and do not use my stove when the bans are in place. if others don't follow the rules, then go after them, but please don't tell me that I cannot have something that I use within the law. Thank You, Sincerely, [name]

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My home was built in 1967, and it was built when there were no other homes in my area. It was built with no central heating system and the only way for me to heat my house is my woodstove. It is cost prohibitive to bring gas in my house, and even if I did, I have no duct work.

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In response to your question I favor the removal of uncertified, polluting, old wood burning stoves. That would be far more likely to solve our air quality problems than requiring more enforcement action. And much cheaper for our government agencies trying to get a handle on this. Keep up the good work!!  
[name]

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Leave it alone and stop trying to regulate everything.

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A stupid and probably unconstitutional idea. Some could argue that this removal of personal property constitutes a governmental taking. I am certain your lawyers would explain the 42 USC 1983 ramifications on your (members of the The Clean Air Agency) personal liberty and property if you were to take such an action under the color of state governance. Last year I attempted to voluntarily tried to replace my old Franklin stove with an approved stove provided by your agency. I was denied a free new stove based upon my zip code. Don't try to tell me now what kind of stove to use unless you are prepared to condemn the old one and provide full legal compensation including a trial and payment of attorney fees. It's called following the constitution!

Likewise searching homes for compliance with heating regulations will undoubtedly require search warrants. As you should be aware, the Washington Supreme Court has prohibited administrative search warrants. Thus you would need a criminal search warrant based upon probable cause. Again a failure to obtain a legal search warrant would subject each of the members of the clean air agency to the federal civil rights penalties cited above.

Please respond with your legal analysis that would support the governmental taking of private property without due process and full compensation and would support the invasion and search of private houses without proper search warrant. This is a public records request.

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We have neighbors who burn improperly (excessive wood smoke), who burn during burn bans, who burn at night time close to their houses/trees, and who burn materials not allowed (construction debris, slash from other properties, etc.). The smoke often enters our house through vents and our garage is often filled with excess smoke from their fires. Most don't seem to know about burn bans and proper burning methods--or they know the laws and don't care--and get upset if we talk to them about smoking us out. We are extremely sensitive (one person in our family is allergic) to wood smoke. We would like to see enhanced communication/education and then definitely enforcement. If people receive education about our poor air quality issues and still choose not to comply with the laws, then enforcement is the only way to insure that they will not continue to be scofflaws. As a homeowner, I sincerely appreciate your efforts to study these issues and propose workable solutions. Thank you,  
[name]

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I would like to see the Puget Sound area be a good place to visit to escape from the Prairie winters. I hope you will eliminate wood burning rather than learn the hard way that the new low emission designs are of very limited effectiveness. These designs date back 300 years, in Europe and the new, improved designs are little better than the old ineffective models. Do check with Libby, Montana; it looks as though their expensive, change-out program will reduce the smoke levels by only 20% which is par for the course. New Zealand reports their experience as "a complete fiasco". The EPA did initially announce that the emission-reduction features are not very effective but this was not what politicians

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wanted to hear. Even if the stoves do perform as claimed; at 6 g/hr, this is 144 g per day or the equivalent of 72 automobiles. Automobile pollution is quite significant and no one would want to live in a municipality polluted to this degree. If for no other reason the health care costs would be prohibitive.

Alan Smith Alberta Director, Canadian Clean Air Alliance

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Attempts to legislate the ban of wood burning devices are ill-thought. Encouraging people to use natural-gas which is NON-RENEWABLE is a shortsighted theory. Wood usage is carbon neutral and does not add greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere like Natural Gas which is a sequestered carbon. Many fail to realize that and I hope this commission takes that into consideration. The continued attack on our Hydro-Electric dams (clean renewable energy) and wood burning appliances will leave us in a state of dependence on foreign petroleum resources. A clean certified stove (such as I have) is an excellent source of renewable energy and it promotes a healthy lifestyle, as you must perform physical work several times to cut, store and stoke your appliance. There may be health risk from particulates, but how many of these at risk people are in such a situation because of obesity due to a sedative lifestyle? Maybe if they went and chopped some wood rather than flicking a switch on their non-renewable fueled gas fireplace they would not be in such poor shape. Its clear that the objective of the Clean Air Authority is to ban wood burning devices in the long term. Hopefully someday, as gas and oil prices continue to rise, we will realize what a wonderful natural and renewable resource wood is, and if burned properly, that it is an excellent and affordable alternative renewable energy source.

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I don't think we have a problem as you are portraying. Yes, on occasion with stagnation of air in our ares maybe banning non essential wood burning would be prudent. But to outright all wood burning---NO!. Not that many people use total wood for heat. The health risks are far too overblown. I don't think we need more Government oversight and regulations. We're in tough times right now. Maybe some folks really need to burn wood. I'm very fortunate. I have all electric heat with a heat pump. I still support the use of wood and pellets. Your Post Card says "Pierce County has an air pollution problem". In the wintertime you may be breathing unhealthy levels of fine particulate polution. I read this as--"We have a problem, we may be brathing bad air, in wintertime, but we also have "other sources" and polution such as industry, transportation. You haven't defined the "problem" so you target the little guy. My vote is absolutely NO!

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About wood stoves: We agree that they should not be used as a primary means of heating, but they are an excellent back-up for when one's primary heating system goes down due to mechanical failure, economic hard times, or interruption of electric or gas supply due to natural or man made causes. In our neighborhood, we have one or two electric power failures a year, occasionally lasting more than 24 hours, and they most often happen during winter storms. Also, this is earthquake country, and we could have a bad one at any time. Again I say: at any time. If you don't take that very real risk into account while making your plans to force removal of wood stoves, you could make the consequences of a big earthquake during winter much worse for a lot of people.

As for replacing our wood stove with a gas furnace, forget it. First of all, it means replacing a renewable fuel source with a non-renewable fossile fuel of limited supply. The gas drillers and suppliers say there's enough gas in the ground to last over a hundred years. Right. At current usage levels, maybe; but what happens when gas is used more and more to replace oil and wood, and more and more gas-fired power plants are built? Natural gas will get very expensive, very quickly, and will become unaffordable for average and low-income home owners, probably within 20 years. Secondly, remember that big earthquake? Gas lines will be leaking in hundreds or thousands of homes, and electrical connections will

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be loosened, allowing arcing and sparking to occur. I don't need to explain to you what can result from that combination of events. After a few houses explode, the gas company will finally get the main valves turned off. Great. Now tens of thousands of people are without heat. And turning off the main valves won't help the people on self-contained propane systems. Imagine you're injured in the quake, or maybe trapped under some rubble in your home, and you can't get to the valve...

Please do not underestimate the security that wood stoves provide. No matter what happens, except maybe some irreparable damage to our stove/chimney system from an earthquake, we can count on our wood stove to keep us warm if all else fails, and we have enough wood to get us through a hard winter. If things were to get really bad, we could safely heat water and cook food on our stove.

Instead of wasting money on increased burn-ban enforcement and "date certain" forced removal, the intelligent, the forward-thinking, the ecologically-responsible thing to do is to offer financial incentives for people to replace their old wood stoves with modern ones (not pellet stoves), and to install solar water-and-space heating systems in dwellings that are well-suited to solar. True, not all dwellings are suitable, but I'd guess 30 to 40 percent of dwellings and businesses in Pierce county could accommodate the collectors and storage tanks needed to use solar as their primary heating system, with electrical back-up systems. You should aggressively lobby state and federal government for help with these incentive programs. And, whatever you do, stop pushing gas heat; it's an obsolete, unsafe technology.

Thanks for asking for our opinion. [name] MD and [name]

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I have a certified wood stove and use it to supplement a gas furnace. I burn dry wood and, after the initial warm up period, you cannot see smoke from my smoke stack until (perhaps) the last hour as the fire dies out. I have a hard time believing that wood smoke is as large a part of the air pollution problem as you say, given the industrial pollution and the ever increasing emissions by the growing traffic traveling through the Tacoma/Pierce County area. I would be interested in seeing daily air quality readings posted throughout the year showing date, quality reading, and climatic conditions (rain, temperature, etc) listed.

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Add to your second goal to reduce the number of older devices: 1. Require removal when a house is sold.

2. Encourage homeowners to apply for certification early. Those who's units do not pass would get incentives towards replacement. Incentives are much higher \$\$\$ initially, with less rewarded as time goes on. This will encourage replacement sooner rather than later. (See suggestion below) 3. Require removal of all uncertified units by a certain date.

Enhanced enforcement of burn ban: 1. Burn ban could be two-tiered. Uncertified units would get MORE burn ban days than certified units. For instance on orange days, just certified units could burn. On red days, no one could burn. Maybe just this freedom to use one's wood stove is all the incentive that would be needed. 2. Ticket the heck out of people who burn when they shouldn't. Use the money to make inspections to certify units free. Thank you for making our air safer.

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I support a total burn ban. This is the only way to get our air cleaner. I would also like to see cleanser public transportation and more buses. Thanks!

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I have a neighbor that burns wood and it does smell pretty bad, it's like the smoke damage that was done in the house I am living in by heavy smokers. This is a complex problem, but if you approve "industry" to burn stuff in the air and able to control the type of chemicals in it, then use the same guidance so that the people can still burn, but with the right wood/chemical that would not hurt the

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environment. This problem could also be a good question for the public vote fees to all whom burn wood. Giving them an option to pay additional cost (like they have with cigarettts).

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Having lived in a rural area for 22 years, I have observed that the worst polluting chimneys are not wood stoves or inserts, but acutal fire places. Especially those in old, small houses. I would suggest that you target old, small home, especially in rural areas, that use wood as a primary heat source. Problem is that these folks don't have any money,and the economy stinks worse for them than others. Have a program available for them to be able to purchase a new efficient stove for little or no money (use the money generated from fines against polluters to subsidize the program). These folks would probably appreciate a more efficient stove - but most likely it is very low on their list of survival priorities. Good luck

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Yes, clean air is important. But, I am one of many that don't think wood burning stoves are the biggest problem. I think vehicles are. I recently had to participate in the most unfair law of our state, or any other state, of having a vehicle tested for emissions, even though I only enter the city limits 4 or 5 times a year. People just down the road from me never have to have their vehicles tested and enter the city every day. There are hundreds of thousands of vehicles entering our populated areas every day that are never tested for emissions. This includes those that are just outside the required testing areas and those passing through on the interstate highways, state highways, and county roads. Clean air can only be achieved by the participation of everyone.

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It's terrible when my neighbor's are using their fireplace, particularly with a north wind or no wind. My house and yard are in a pall of smoke. I support any actions that can help lessen this problem. I notice that Fox Island is not covered in the zone. I live near Titlow Beach a mile south of the Tacoma Narrows and look across the water toward the island. Burning for clearing and for debris removal is frequent and I have numerous photos where large portions of the island are in a pall of smoke. It would be a good idea to include the island in future planning.

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The wood stove replcement program (rebate) should be extended to fireplaces without an insert. I burn wood in my fireplace which does not have an insert. I would consider purchasing a gas or wood burning insert if a rebate was offered.

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How about a chipper rebate program as is done w/ electric mowers? In rural areas that do not have curbside yard waste pick-up, bruning would be reduced if more rural landowners had chippers to reduce their wind storm limb piles. Thanks for taking suggestions.

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What is most disturbing is the burning of waste oil in multiple shops,including City,County,State,Transit Authorities,Auto and Truck Repair Shops etc. The waste oil is full of minute metal particulates that simply enter our Air Stream ultimately adding to our already "Polluttetd Air" and effecting our youngsters and elderly citizens particularly,as well as others! This practice was eliminated in California and other states when the 1992 Federal Clean Air Act was enacted.Shouldn't we in Washington State follow suite? Also ,the State of Wash.has extended the oil changes up to 6,000 miles in automobiles,and are going by fuel consumed on their Diesel Trucks and Construction Equipment. Next step can be Oil Analysis, that will allow finding problems before they become disasters,and perhaps extending oil drain intervals even further on the entire "Power Trains!" We have Handheld Oil Analyzers with on the spot results,reducing the cost of Lab Analysis.By-Pass Oil Filtration Systems are another way of keeping the oil analytically clean,again extending oil drain intervals even further.There are many technologies available to reduce dependence on foreign imported oil,although when not implemented do not provide results.

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I am increasingly distressed at reading the notes from the meetings, as follows.

- There is discussion of what happens upon the removal of uncertified devices, including not allowing any replacement. Where do you get the authority to do that? Does this mean that certified devices will no longer be allowed for anyone? If not, what is to prevent someone from replacing their uncertified device with a certified device? This alternative makes not sense.
- There should be no permitting requirement! This is a typical bureaucratic solution – requires people to waste time and resources.
- Forget intrusive inspections unless you can document violations.
- Requiring uncertified devices to be replaced or eliminated upon sale makes sense and it can be incorporated into disclosures required by realtors/owners without a large bureaucracy.
- Will the entire county be required to comply with new regulations or only the non-attainment area? It should be the latter.
- Bear in mind that we are in the midst of a financial crisis and this is not the time to be suggesting growing the bureaucracy or further intruding into people's lives.

Thanks.[name]

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I think that agencies like this is a complete waste of money. I could care less if someone wants to have a fire once in awhile. Please stop making such intrusive laws, I want to be free to enjoy a good old fashioned fire or fire pit without government agencies intruding on my privacy and personal life.

Thank you, .[name]

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How I heat my home is none of your business. I currently don't burn but I'm considering it in the future. If I decide to, it will be my decision and my decision alone. Your authority does have it's limits.

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Enhanced enforcement is definitely the key to immediate reduction in the wood smoke/particulate problem within Pierce County. I would report violators in my own neighborhood if necessary. Is there a phone number where such reports can be submitted?

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Clean air is important but I prefer the education and incentives route rather than the regulation and enforcement route. Expanding outreach and notification of burn bans sounds like a good idea. I never hear about them.

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I approve of burn bans when necessary, but it does no good at all to have burn bans if they are not enforced. People view PSCAA as feckless, toothless, and view the burn bans the same way. As everyone who has ever raised a child knows, if you insist on a rule, you must enforce it consistently or your entire suite of rules will suffer as a result. I believe predictable, consistent enforcement is the key to controlling PM2.5, and you're going to have to "bite the bullet" and start enforcing with the public, as well as commercial sources.

I don't think your other proposed strategy is going to be very effective. Most pollution from wood stoves is not because the stove is not approved, it is because people are lazy and WILL damp it down so it burns more slowly, uses less wood, and holds overnight. You can build a non polluting fire in almost any stove, if you make it small and hot, and feed it more often. Education is not going to work either;

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people already know this, they just want the convenient solution, which is a large fire burning slowly. The only real answer is enforcement of a "no visible smoke" rule, even when there is NO burn ban in effect. You're going to have to start giving out tickets, and they need to sting. Do that, and burn violations will start to resemble speeders on the freeway: you won't get rid of them altogether, but you'll curtail most of them, and everyone will at least have some respect for the rule. You don't have that now.

It's not a matter of infringing on personal rights; not when the smoke you're generating impacts those around you. You should not be allowed to poison your neighbors; society has a right to stop that, and we should.

...and while you're at it, how about enforcement for the outdoor burning rule as well? Same arguments apply.

Land hard on the smokers, PSCAA: there are a lot of us behind you!

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Puget Sound Clean Air Agency – Clean Air Pierce County

My wife and I have lived in the City of Puyallup for over 40 years, and the last 15 have been a health and quality of living disaster – especially during the cold weather months. My wife has asthma, and has suffered severe episodes during periods of heavy dirty burning, that occur frequently in the winter.

Take a short slow drive through the area west of Shaw road, on Forest Green Blvd to the west, and you will certainly witness multiple homes emitting non-complying wood smoke. A thick layer of smoke blankets the entire neighborhood on some days.

As I write this letter - a home across the street [street address] in Puyallup WA has been emitting thick opaque smoke from a fire place for over one hour (11/04/2011, 11:10am-12:30PM). I have reported the home to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency over the years, and the burden seems to have fallen on me to confront the homeowner. In the process I have been assaulted by this neighbor, and about five years ago, I was hospitalized with a gunshot wound that grazed my head. There is no amount of reading material that will fix cases like this.

I have received letters from PSCAA stating that their primary objective is to educate citizens. The educational mission has failed, in my opinion, and I think my hypothesis could be supported with statistically validated studies. Enforcement has also failed, primarily because it has fallen on people like me to confront non-conforming polluters.

The best solution, in my opinion, is to take the lead from other cities in the U.S. and Canada, and ban wood stoves. It's that simple, no new stoves, no enforcement, no education, no flyers, and websites that polluters will ignore. Other comparable regions have succeeded by banning wood stoves. Why can't we be leaders as well? I have lived in Mukilteo, Lynnwood, and Seattle, and all have better air quality. The poor air quality plight of Pierce County must be broken!

Please feel free to contact me for additional insights, including ideas about how to run scientific pilots that validate results, prior to full policy changes that may have limited potential for long-term positive impact on air quality.

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**I THINK YOU ARE GOING TOO FAR!! AND I WILL BURN WOOD AS MUCH WOOD AS I PLEASE!!**

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This proposal appears to be a violation of individuals' property rights by a non-elected body. The fact that these actions can be imposed upon a citizen without recourse is extremely troubling. Forcing negative economic consequences upon others based upon the desires of this group seems undemocratic

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and against the principals upon which this nation was founded. You might consider the constitutionality of these actions, as I know others will.

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Please try to clean up the air out here in the rural areas. There are many times I can't go to the store of anywhere else it is so thick out here you can see it and forget about a walk or anything else .Thank you

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With an income of 762 a month and a six year old we need to be able to use the fireplace when we lose electricity. I see no way around this. I have been watching neighbors trying to use their fireplaces and really think they need to be taught about using seasoned wood instead of household garbage and green wood. I have talked with some of the younger neighbors and shared some information with them and am not smelling their garbage anymore. Also, they are emitting a lot less smoke. People have not been taught these things because it is no longer a way of life that everyone shares.

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I have several neighbors that burn wood and it goes right in our house, through vents in the roof.

Two neighbors even burn trash. Our air is often very polluted in the winter!

I believe burning in populated areas should be illegal.

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I believe that this is somewhat unneeded because my family does not have a gas line to our house to provide heat and we use wood to heat our home and I assume that switching our firewood furnace would cost money our family doesn't quite have to spare.

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Wood burning is a problem in my neighborhood, as there are at least three homes nearby that seem to have out-dated wood-burning devices. The worst smoke problem that exists in close proximity to my home, however, is a next-door neighbor who uses a barbecue/smoker at least once a week for nearly a full day. The smoke that pours across my yard is so thick that even with windows and fresh-air vents closed, the smoke penetrates into my home. Going outdoors when the smoker is in use is impossible. Is smoke from a barbecue/smoker as harmful as it seems to be? If so, is there anything being done to address this situation in Pierce County?

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I attended your EXCELLENT Workshop 10/20/11 at S End Comm Ctr.

A neighbor next door, East of us, took down SEVEN very old Doug Fir trees just past the fence (UP allows an individual to take down SEVEN, which has to be a 'nod' to DEVELOPERS, I think. Anyway, he cut them all up and they're now stored in a new, large shed in his backyard. Upon my complaint, Senior Planner [name] or UP came and saw what was going on and reported back to me this neighbor planned to cut up all those trees for FIREWOOD! (Those were TOWERING trees, very old)

Also, another neighbor just South of us, across the fence, has been burning his fireplace EVERY NIGHT these past nights when the temp has been getting down into the 30's. There's a steady stream of whitish smoke drifting up and I also smell it each morning when I open my back door

to the North! So his drifting smoke has been polluting nightly as we sleep (and I always sleep with my window cracked open a bit).

Today, Monday, Nov. 7, in Tacoma News Tribune, front page, is article about ScRAPs \$\$ (up to \$30,000 per individual) to replace old clunker trucks, pre 1994, and get them off the roads. Your P.S. Clean Air Agency is one of the sponsors. Now, the trucks pictured seem to be the kind used by commercial companies, but not ordinary citizens. What a boon to those who likely could afford to buy their own! I

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wouldn't quibble about \$5,000; however, \$30,000 would replace a lot of uncertified wood-burning fireplace units!

Your graph indicates that cars/trucks produce MUCH LESS air pollution than wood-burning fireplaces. And you said at the 10/20 meeting that there is very limited funds left to exchange 'illegal uncertified' wood-burning fireplace systems. SO I'M JUST SHAKING MY HEAD ~ WHY WE WOULD SPEND SO MUCH 'SCARCE' FUNDS ON VEHICLES WHICH PRODUCE MUCH LESS AIR POLLUTION AND CAUSE MUCH LESS THREAT TO PEOPLE'S HEALTH? WHY NOT EXPAND THE BUY-BACK OF POLLUTING WOOD-BURNING FIREPLACES INSTEAD???

Thanks for receiving my input! [name, address, phone]

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I am SOOO against burning, wood or anything really. I live on a street where several homes burn their fireplaces and one, that I know of, has one of those wood burning stoves that is suppose to heat most of the house AND THAT IS ALL THEY USE SO IT IS GOING ALL THE TIME WHEN COOL/COLD.. I no sooner open my windows and doors which I love doing, we get that rancid smell. How do they NOT KNOW THAT THEY ARE POLLUTING OUR neighborhood, the planet, sending out a carcinogen.

My throat will get bothered. WE ARE NOT IN FARM COUNTRY ANY MORE. When electricity is out, I'm sure it is nice to have a fireplace but most of the heat/air just goes up the chimney and doesn't heat even the front room. We turned ours into a gas log but we still don't use it.

This one neighbor is a retired officer in the military so he surely can afford to run his furnace like I do!!!!!!!

Wonder if they read the post card you sent out...!!!! Even if he did, I KNOW he will not do anything about it.

This is late for your meetings but first I had a virus and no computer a good week. WAS TERRIBLE. Then I'm on second week of a terrible cold and difficult to breathe, eye/nose dripping. Anyway, wish people would be more aware, considerate and something could be done about any air pollution.

This IS THEE ONLY EARTH we have. Doesn't it scare people? It does me.

Thanks for listening.

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It is important to provide a healthy environment to live in; everybody should be able to go outside and breathe air that is clean and safe. Whatever regulation needs to be put in place to make that happen, should be put in place. Nobody has the right to endanger the health of their neighbors.

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I can agree with incentives to get rid of old wood stoves. We intentionally placed a certified wood stove in our home so we could heat with wood in the winter. I firmly oppose the banning of burning wood in certified wood stoves regardless of conditions.

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I am glad that you sent this. I am glad that people are concerned about air quality. I have asthma and have had for years. I take three meds for it and though I have heard air quality is sometimes bad here I do not have a problem with the air. I also have arthritis and my doctor says that I would like like heat provided by burning wood. I do like it and it is very comfortable to me. I also have an electric furnace in the house and if I run it lots my electricity bill is 600 or so a month. Thats too much for someone on social security. I really think that if I could not burn firewood I would probably look for a different county to reside in. I have answered the survey with these ideas in mind. Not that I think we should all just start lighting fires and burning wildly, but if you need heat and you got the wood use it. Natural gas

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has also become expensive. Thank you. [name]

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To whom it may concern, Who do you think you are even thinking about requiring the removal of wood burning stoves and fireplace inserts that were installed to code at the time of installation. Do we now live in a Dictatorship where non elected officials can mandate that the citizens of the state of Washington do as they say???? Where will this all end? What will you ban next? If you do require the removal of wood stoves and fireplace inserts, the state of Washington should be required to pay for the removal and the installation of a new clean heat source because I for one will not pay for the removal of my wood stove. You will have a tough time convincing a judge to order the removal of anything from a private residence. You requested my feedback concerning this topic so here you have it. Respectfully, [name]

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I attended a meeting last evening in regards to air pollution by fine particles and have several questions which I could not get asked or answered.

1. How is the Clean Air task force selected as I was never informed of how to participate?
2. How do we know who represents who on the panel?
3. Why do recommendations have to be attached to an enforceable rule?
3. What happens and who decides if a homeowner with a stove, does not meet abatement criteria or time limits?
4. Is a homeowner legally required to allow an inspector into household and if so under what authority?

These were just a few questions I had. All in all I thought the meeting was a waste of my time as nothing was discussed on how to help home owners meet the requirements. I applied earlier in the year and received a small promise of help, but it was not enough as I found out that suppliers of stove replacement were raising prices to an extreme. I found one supplier willing to replace my stove at a price tag of over \$6000.00! Who can afford that? I was going to be required to apply for and purchase permits as well as for the modification. How can the agency prevent price gouging? What kind of kick back is the agency receiving? [name]

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I believe that wood burning should be banned in all of Pierce County. There are thousands of people who have lung problems. I am highly allergic to wood smoke. The people who burn woodstoves believe they have a right to do so. I have a right to have air I can breathe and not cause health problems. Burning wood is not the best way to heat a home. Some of the rooms in the home do not get enough heat so mildew can be a health problem. People do not know how to burn correctly. They either have the stove set too low or they burn green wood so they are causing a lot of smoke. Even if these people turned to manufactured logs, they will have the same problem because either their stove is outdated or the house may be too insulated for the stove to be used or they do not know how to burn the logs correctly. Please be on the side of the people who need it the most. The people who get sick from the wood smoke.

Thank you, [name]

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Hi, Being a homeowner for over 40yrs in Pierce County, paying taxes, voting always yes on school levy's, fire levy's, I just don't want to be told when and if I can burn my woodstove. I take pride in my home and keep up with safety issues when it comes to my property. I have almost spent 30 yrs. Working with Ins. Agents. I have a lot of experience with fire claims.

No more rules for the tax paying. Instead head the request from these upstanding tax payers and try and help each individual matter separately, don't throw all of us in the same box.

I have on record my complaints to the Health Dept., sheriff's dept., fire dept., councilman, owner of property next to my parcel.

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I find living and dealing with homeless felons way more dangerous than wood stove smoke. Rats, urine, feces, garbage fires, etc. more of a health issue. I get no help from your dept. or anyone else for that matter.

Leave the wood stoves alone and deal with more major concerns. Thanks, [name]  
Unable to attend one of the meeting.

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Pellet & gas stoves are inoperable when the electricity fails. Having to depend on these options is not feasible when all else fails unless one has a battery backup, which most home owners probably haven't thought of. I can understand updating old wood stoves with newer more effecient ones, but let people have choices. We do not burn wood at our home, but I'd like to have that option if I choose to and during emergency situations. Thanks...[name]

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WHEN I PURCHASED MY MFG HOME I HAD NO INTENTION OF BURNING WOOD EVEN THO THERE WAS A WOOD STOVE INSTALLED. PREVIOUS OCCUPANTS LEFT A LARGE AMOUNT OF SCRAP WOOD IN THE GARAGE. I TOOK A SMALL LOAD TO THE COUNTY DUMP AND WAS CHARGED \$78 TO GET RID OF IT. I DECIDED IT WAS MUCH CHEAPER TO CUT IT UP AND BURN IT. I NOT ONLY DID NOT HAVE TO PAY THE DUMP BUT MY ELECT BILL WENT DOWN OVER \$100 PER MONTH. AS FOR WAYS TO CHANGE. DO NOT EXCLUDE MFG HOUSING FROM THE ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM. I ASKED ABOUT ASSISTANCE IN PURCHASING ENERGY EFFICIENT WINDOWS AND WAS TOLD MFG HOUSING DID NOT QUALIFY. SEEMS TO ME ENERGY SAVED IS SAVED WHETHER IN A STICK BUILT HOME OR MFG HOME. ANY EXPLANITION WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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Any financial incentives or Tax breaks would be extremely helpful in the removal of old or outdated wood burning stove inserts. I have been unemployed for 2 years and because of my fixed income/budget restraints, I find it necessary to use my insert to keep warm in the winter months because of the high cost of using my gas heater.

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If we can't have both ideas listed above, I prefer enhanced enforcement. Wood stoves are not the only source of excess wood smoke--for instance, we have neighbors who constantly burn unseasoned wood and it is not uncommon when they are burning to see a mushroom cloud of smoke envelope our neighborhood--the smoke smell totally comes into our garage and through our roof vents. Other people in our neighborhood burn unlawfully, and the perception is that there is no enforcement, so they continue to do it, even though we have talked to them about it. Once this summer we had to call the fire department because a neighbor was burning construction materials (unlawful) too close to his house--the flames were as high as his double-story house and licking up into the trees--and the fire re-ignited the next morning--the neighbors did not attend the fire at all times and left the house the next morning. They are still mad at us for calling the fire department, but they were unavailable for us to contact. They had no regard for their safety or the safety of their neighbors. I should also mention that these are not one-time occurrences with these neighbors, so I think the problem is larger than just the older wood stove pollution. Thank you. [name]

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I have lived in central Tacoma area all of my 36 years of life. I have suffered most of my childhood and adult life from sinus, breathing problems and illness especially in the late fall and winter months. My mother who has lived her over 70 years of her life now has continually suffered as well. Now I have two children and I want to do something to say enough of poisoning the next generation of children. Two generations are enough. My daughter last year missed over 20 days of school from continual bronchitis of which she is now under the care of an allergist. When I go out at night I see smoke all around my neighborhood and smell a stench in the air from wood stoves. When the city is paying to help people change over to regular heating systems it should be against the law to have wood stoves. This is the United States of America not urban China but yet our air quality is equal. I cry when my son has to be steamed by a warm air humidifier at night because he played outside at pre-k and now is coughing all night long. As an educator I am most upset to think of kids in our community everyday playing outside and being systematically poisoned. When is enough, enough? Please let me know how I can get

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involved and you can count me in the fight to rid of the pollution that is killing and harming the next generation. I look forward to more information and want to be a part of the solution.

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To Whom It Concerns, I think the decision to burn wood should be left to the individual citizen. By burning bone dry wood at an adequate temperature the amount of pollution is minimal. Rather than mandating what people should do, including forcing them to invest in certified stoves for additional \$\$\$, educational opportunities should be provided. It's not a matter of whether we should do it, but HOW. I find cigarette smoke to be more of a health risk and detriment to air quality. I don't have a wood stove, but would be happy to teach appropriate usage. My ancestors were loggers and burning wood should remain a part of the northwest culture. Sincerely, [name, phone number]

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Here is an idea, you can help people make the choice easier by keeping costs of electricity down. One way we can do this is not to force energy companies to use certain percentages of "green" energy, forcing them to build expensive infrastructure that produces little energy... then of course passing on those costs to us, the consumers. On top of that, they could call dams "green" because they are.. after all, water is ALWAYS going to take the easiest path, and will always be there to turn the turbines. I suggest you lobby the state to reverse their asinine regulations such as these and help lower our energy costs so we will naturally not burn as much fuel. Seems pretty simple to me.

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I want to see all wood burning banned permanently along with the manufacture of wood burning stoves because only morons pollute the air that they breathe and there are far too many who "just don't get it."

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We always adhere to the burn ban when either a stage one or two is in effect. And we appreciate all that is being done to further reduce the affects of pollution on our air in the Puget Sound. This past week I noticed there were days when Pierce County and Kitsap was still under a stage two but no ban was in effect in either King or Snohomish. It's hard to accept this exclusion when the I-5 corridor runs the full distance and changes in wind direction north & south bringing with it the burn and auto pollution from the other counties. The testing in those areas can not be unaffected by these factors in the other counties. I appreciate the steps taken to retrofit older diesel engines in our area with more clean burning, however, that does not stop the continuous flow of all types of vehicles along the I-5 corridor at all times, even during a burn ban continuing to add to the already saturated readings of pollutants. The burn bans won't seem unbiased unless all concerns are addressed. Vehicles driving within the strategic PS area during a "burn ban" must be identified as part of the problem. Areas outside the burn ban which continue to burn may also be adding to pollutants by winds aloft in our area. And during this specific economy, family budgets are tight. The cost of heating a home in the NW winter months using electric heat alone can be a devastating financial burden. Keep in mind, the latest news from a corresponding agency; Department of Ecology which states; That by the year 2020, we will no longer be required to get emissions tests on our vehicles. The reason stated is as follows: Washington's air quality has improved since testing began in 1981, and vehicles are much cleaner than they used to be. As reported in the AAA Members magazine dated November/December 2011 it appears that the message is; 1) Only wood smoke is creating the problem 2) Non retro-fitted vehicles driving along the I-5 corridor do not add to the particulates during an inversion (burn ban time-frame) 3) No outside burning air pollutants blow into the Puget Sound area. 4) The lower Puget Sound area ie Pierce and Kitsap counties have a longer sustained burn ban in place because "That Is Where the pollutants come from"!?!? There is conflict here. And although I take very seriously my part in the environment health of where I live and the planet at large, some of the above conclusions seem an irrational burden to a specific area as well as a financial burden to families in these tight economic times. I hope the task force request changes very cautiously so as not to further burden tax payers or families during these difficult times. And not make mandates hastily without complete testing, evaluation and transparent reporting of all pollutant factors in the State of Washington. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, [name], Lakewood, WA

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If you want to evaluate soot, look to all the diesel engines spewing chunks.

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I can see removing uncertified stoves upon a sale. But Setting a certain date is bull crap. I in no way can afford to buy a new insert. This is like Obama forcing you to buy healthcare against your wishes. I thought this was a free country.

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While we do not live in the non-attainment area we have no doubt that eventually any regulations put into effect regarding wood burning will be applied to us. Fire has been a part of human existence for a long enough time that we believe we evolved to love fire. We don't know anyone who does not appreciate sitting by a fire. Your recently proposed regulations are the extreme of the extreme. There are so many other and greater sources of pollution such as cars, trucks, trains, aircraft, industry, farm equipment, etc.,etc. Wood burning probably does contribute to air pollution but we don't believe it is significant enough to warrant the rules you are proposing. And we don't believe it is enough of a problem to take fire away from people which is undoubtedly a long term goal in the effort to protect the environment. We support encouraging people to use clean burning wood stoves and to avoid outdoor burning during those few and brief periods of stagnant air. Your efforts would be better used to achieve these goals rather than creating a new class of criminal.

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### **Input Provided by U.S. Mail**

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Got your note on air pollution in Pierce County. In response: 1) I suggest more public education in news media on the relationship of dirty air and health decline, illness, and disability. 2) Promotion of clean burning wood pellet stoves. 3) Promotion of efficient ductless heat pumps. 4) Promote home insulation.

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Sir: Pierce County has an air pollution problem because the county/state does not enforce the existing rules and regulations in regards to wood burning. Adding more rules/laws won't do anything if they are not enforced. I see the county/state and your organization as being too "politically correct" to solve the pollution problems caused by wood burning. When a burn ban is in effect, I can look out my window and see numerous chimneys smoking. People will burn when and where they want to, just like they

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shoot fireworks anytime they want to, for there are no consequences. There is not enough enforcement and the fines are too small. Do the crime, pay the fine. No excuses. [name]

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There is nothing more comforting in the cold winters than the delicious aroma of someone organically warming their home with their fireplace. For a lot of families, it is their only affordable option. They gather their wood for free and heat their homes for free - escaping the stronghold the electric company has on so many. It is smoke that will be washed out of the air by the constant rain we love so dear. Ash, an alkaline, is good for the soil and even softens water. If garbage was incinerated all across the board, the earth would be far cleaner. However, our government would be dishing out less money to the leeches of society (like this pointless, unconstitutional campaign) and where would that leave taxpayers? Stop wasting taxpayers money by collecting a paycheck. Who do you think you are? A "tolerant" liberal? You people try to make the green movement a moral ethic and a law. Why? So that the government can create more jobs in the "service" industry. The only things tax dollars should fund is 1) law enforcement/military; 2) firefighters; 3) post office. Everything else should be private. We're not a communist nation, are we? At least not yet. I pick up litter. I recycle. I do other "green" things. However NONE of this should be government mandated. Who pays the garbage monitors? Taxpayers. Who pays for "green" incentives and rebates? Taxpayers. You can sit around in your made in China snuggies and make up Scrooge-like rules but you'll all be out of money when you bankrupt our teetering nation. If we had a flat sales tax and only funded my previously mentioned services our country would be the richest in the world. Guess where your postcard is going. My wood stove. Peace. [email address] p.s. I will never stop pointing out propaganda to my friends and family. Especially something ridiculous like this.

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Promote new ductless heat pump systems for home heating and air conditioning. High efficiency clean burning pellet stoves.

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- 1) First time someone is turned in or discovered, give them a 60-day warning while presenting them with regulation information, correct instruction on operation, financial incentives, and a required return appointment to show compliance or payment of fine due 60+ days after discovery.
- 2) Require only dried firewood be sold in Pierce County.
- 3) Since this is a South Tacoma/University Place etc. problem bordering I-5, have freeway speed lowered while going through this area "pollution reduction zone." Helps lower particles and reduce accidents also.
- 4) Publicize that homes with visable smoke will be visited for noncompliance. Make citizens more aware.
- 5) Lowering freeway speed would get plenty of press attention and good coverage on the problem and what is being done. Speed could be raised once goal is met.
- 6) Mail or give out information along with welfare money to all those in ZIP code areas affected.
- 7) All banks holding repos be required to upgrade heating source before any kind of sale or upgrade be made by buyer and inspected before utilities can be turned on for new owner.
- 8) Hate to have big brother being the pollution police.

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Sir: I received your notice in the mail about wood smoke pollution in Pierce County. I was raised by a open fireplace and wood cook stove. I don't think their enough wood pollution in Pierce County to cause any problems. The main problem that is never mentioned is these for no good fireworks on the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve. The fireworks cause a lot of serious injuries and fires. The sulfur and powder smoke that is put in the air at this time is more harmful than all the wood smoke that is put in the air oat this time. The reason no one goes after fireworks is the revenue received from the sale of the fireworks. I tried calling but no one on phone. I couldn't understand. I only speak English. I was born 10/5/19. I'm a World War II Veteran (92 years old). I served in South Pacific. Yours truly, [name]

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[I have concerns about] the picture you sent out on the card. I quote "Pierce County's unhealthy air quality in the wintertime. Smoke from wood stoves and fireplaces is the biggest reason why. Burn wood? We need to talk alright." I'm going to send out online this big lie you tried to pull off. It is cars and trucks that are the biggest reason, not wood stoves. Your picture should have showed cars and trucks with the exhaust pipes belching out making a big dark cloud. Government, no wonder the people don't trust government anymore. This picture is a bold face lie! I want you to send out a correction with cars and trucks as the biggest reason, but I know you will not do that because like your bungling of the housing market with you forcing banks to lend money to people who could not afford those houses, again you get involved with deception and manipulation. I am disgusted with you dishonest people. You are not fit to lead the people in the matter, because of your dishonest approach. Just look at the false impression. Do you deny that the cars and trucks are the biggest reason? Then why, why do you approach the people with such a false picture, because this is how you and notice through the year love to operate (sic). Simple honest fact are not your way, you have to exaggerate and create a false picture to gain an advantage and this is why I cannot trust you, or believe anything you say. This is so dishonest and manipulative! Yours truly, [name]

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Dear Sir, In reference to your card about pollution problems, I would like to bring to your attention two of the worst problems we have but we know we cannot stop them. #1 is the use of trucks, cars, etc., on the streets, roads, etc. #2 is the flying of jets, airplanes, of different types, in the sky worldwide. #1 we can do something about. Make it impossible for individuals to drive any type of vehicle when they are not cleared by state law in any circumstances, including emergencies. Do not let dealers, friends, etc., loan, sell, lease, etc., without checking on individual insurance, drivers license, wants (sic), warrants, etc. Anyone caught driving any vehicle without said coverage will pay full fine and vehicle owner will have vehicle taken away and sold to pay fine. Make it the owners responsibility. [name]

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### **Input Provided via Telephone**

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Me and my husband, who is in the military, moved from Florida to Puyallup area a couple of years ago. I had brain cancer and radiation... Hard to get out (I can't drive and my husband is deployed) so can't come to open house. Definitely doesn't like all the smoke. Maybe make it mandatory that homes have heat -- even if renters have to pay just a little bit more. We live in an old, cold, damp rented house. We use a space heater when it gets really cold. We used the fireplace once and the smoke made me really sick. I would love to be involved. Please call me.

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My wife and I live in a large, two-story house heated by gas furnace. Children no longer at home. In the evening, they use the fireplace to give comfort (stresses "comfort" 3 times) when in the family room by the kitchen. That way we don't have to heat whole house when only in a room or two at night. The

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comfort from the fire is important for us -- we are in their 80s -- on those cold, windy, gray nights.

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I live in Spanaway/Fredrickson area. Have a new pellet stove which is my only source of heat because my furnace broke 15 years ago and cannot be repaired. I paid a lot for my pellet stove and it keeps me very warm. Does believe pellets burn cleaner. When you are strapped, there's no other option. Please keep me updated.

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I have inefficient baseboard heaters. Got a fireplace insert 3-5 years ago. Burns wood for heat, and just got a couple cords for the winter. Will you try to take it away from me? Please keep me informed.

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I'm very interested in this problem because I have asthma. I am especially prone to asthma attacks and infections in the wintertime. I don't have a wood stove. I wish wood burning were less in Pierce County and all over, because it would certainly help me out. Won't likely attend open house because I don't go out after dark. Please keep me informed. Wish I had some outstanding ideas, but doesn't. Wish I knew more. I know some people have both central heat and wood stove, but we use stove to cut down on expenses. But at the same time it makes it worse for those breathing the air -- especially those with lung problems.

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I can't attend the open houses. There are people all around my neighborhood ([intersection in Lakewood]) that burn wood, and it bothers the rest of the people living there. The air is terrible, and it even smells in my house. I don't want to say anything to my neighbors -- they're nice and I don't want to cause problems. I would appreciate it if we would do something -- something's got to be done. There is an awful lot of wood burning and it's not good.

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I can't attend open house. I have asthma and have a real problem in wintertime compared to other times of the year, and it seems to be intensifying. We don't burn at my home. But people don't follow burn bans in her neighborhood. Is there some way/device to clean up the air that comes out of the chimney? I recognize it is a very complicated problem. Please keep updated via mail.

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Keep your ideas to yourself. Leave people alone about burning wood. People can't pay for electricity in wintertime. Poor people will burn because we need to survive.

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I would like to know what study you are referencing to determine wood stoves are the #1 polluter in Pierce County in the wintertime.

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I just bought a home two months ago with two fireplaces. I think transportation, industry and all the jets flying into JBLM are putting out a lot more foul air than my wood burners. There's no way in the world I'll stop burning wood. I don't care what your laws are, because they're not passing out free heat. And there's nothing you guys can do or say to make me stop burning. I live in Oakbrook on 95th Ave SW.

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I am unable to attend the open house. I have a fireplace in apartment. I do have fires through the winter to help heat my apartment. Can get free wood on occasion. I live on social security only. I get some assistance for my electric bill, but haven't used electric heat for three years now. Burning wood keeps my apartment sufficiently warm. I can't look at materials online as too poor to afford computer and web service. If you're going to tell us we can't burn wood for heat, I don't know what's going to happen because I'll get fined. I don't plan to freeze, I'm old, have arthritis and several other ailments and I need to stay warm.

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Very opposed to any changes in law or rules about burning wood. Your information is propaganda and a misinformation and a disservice to public at large. You failed to do our research. You tell us the largest hazard to air quality is wood burning, mention industry, transportation and other sources. Failure to tell us the "other" sources -- failure to tell people is because we really aren't into educating the public. Any changes during this current economic downturn would impose undue hardship upon those unable to bear that burden. I myself don't burn wood, but know many who do. Any new rules would bear undue hardship and bear the brunt of our policies/authority. I really feel this is ill conceived, poorly researched, and haven't do the service to the public you serve. Doubt your open house meetings will impact change to the law. This is really unfair without providing better and more comprehensive information for the public to review. I plan to talk to as many people as I can about this issue. There are lots of people who can't afford electric bill, which were just hiked again. And bad to imply those who can't afford other heat for their home are the primary source of air pollution. Contributory, no doubt, but let's take a look at the actual amount that comes from industry, transportation and other sources. This postcard does not constitute due diligence... I will be looking for public process... You need to keep in mind there are people in our county with a real downturn in their personal economics. We'll get cold if we can't burn wood. There needs to be some form of public contribution to help offset those costs for those not able to bear increased costs. I will be watching. Surprised I haven't heard more about this.

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Are Presto-logs considered in the same arena as wood?

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I live in Pierce County. I was told to call the fire department when I smelled burning garbage at night. Occurred night after night in 80 degree weather. Fire department could not locate. I live not far from McChord, who has controlled burns year-round. Smell gave burning eyes and a headache. When places like government and military have exception to rule, what good does it do? It still is a health hazard

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You need to give me a job and pay my electric bill so I don't have to burn the wood. That's my idea.

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It's nice of you to help PSE and electric companies make more money. And you could save some money by stop sending flyers. I use it in my fireplace to burn.

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I have a pellet stove (free-standing). Does that constitute wood burning? My only other heat is old, nasty oil furnace. Let me know.

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Don't need a phone call returned. You guys are speaking two different directions. A couple years ago you encouraged us by giving us money to replace wood stove. Now you are haranguing us through the mail about not burning wood. I'm a democrat, not normally one to talk about gov't waste. If you didn't want us to burn wood, you should not have sponsored program. That you would waste public money to send at least two flyers to my address. This is a waste of taxpayer money.

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I have long been concerned since I lived in this small senior community by freeway, about pollution. I know a lot is wood burning, but fumes by freeway early in morning are so strong. I think Puyallup does nothing to help pollution. They encourage all these cars to come in: to Fair, for events, for huge church that has grown like crazy. I feel sorry for all the children with asthma. Living in this valley is worse than living up the hill. Not just the wood stoves, although you have the instruments to measure than. Need to do something about encouraging all the cars: maybe have parking lot up on the hill, bus down to the Fairgrounds or the big church, or move the church to a different place so there is less pollution on the street.

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Please send an info packet to the person that lives at [street address in central Tacoma]. This person is a wood burner, with terrible smoke coming out of the chimney constantly.

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I burn wood in fireplace, but only about twice a season. Christmas and maybe another day, and just for a few hours. I only burn the logs wrapped in paper from the store. I don't think that should be restricted. It should be restricted for the people who burn all the time. There should be a limit on how often you use it. Some people rented or bought their house because of the fireplace. As long as they aren't over-using it. Everyone should be limited to how often they could use it.

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Please call main number or Cell: 253-xxx.xxxx.

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I can't attend the open house. I do have a wood burning fireplace. I don't have any wonderful ideas. I would appreciate being kept up to date with any further information and rules or regulations you have in mind. Please keep me up to date.

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I'm old school. I think it is time government keeps out of people's faces, quit destroying what makes this nation work, quit attacking the citizens not only of Pierce County and this state. If you want to remedy air pollution problems, here's what you should do: Raze Seattle to the ground -- the fish runs will come back and everything else. Get out of people's personal lives and leave us alone.

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I live in a large valley, with numerous people who burn wood. I can't breathe to go outside just to get into car. I'd like to know why when I have called before to your numbers, nothing has been done, and I've given them addresses. I'd like a response back. I may not be able to make the meeting at Puyallup library. But it should be stopped in this valley -- the smoke never leaves

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I live at [street address], in Tacoma in Summit-Waller area. There is a gentleman out here that burns 24/7. He has a roofing/paving business and prunes trees. He bought a wetland area that he filled in with a junkyard. He burns wood in house most of winter, with smoke and stink. He has 10-15 people living there, sometimes down to five or six people. He burns the roofing materials. No matter what is called in, nobody does anything. Everybody seems to be afraid of him. It goes on most every day, and no one does a [expletive] thing. You see some people burn when there is an emergency, and that's OK. But others bulldoze and tear down, and they're burning and you don't do anything about it. We would appreciate you driving down [street name] a couple of times -- you can smell it. It stinks, it's a mess, and you people don't do a [expletive] thing about it.

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I am concerned about pollution. I don't think it is all wood stoves. I live in Fife. We have a lot of semis just running. That's diesel. There's a lot more of that. That is where a lot of pollution comes from. We've been burning wood for centuries and I don't think that is the problem. Thanks for letting me make my comments.

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A question from a concerned citizen in Pierce County area. Why is this labeled wood burning with so much gas and electricity? Wood burning is such a remote source of heat, when industry, transportation and other sources/. It is labeled backwards. Never mind all the diesel and ships in the harbor. Why target wood burners?

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I'm gonna light a fire just in your honor. Let me just burn some more for you.

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I'm interested in getting updated. We have a neighbor who burns wood. It is horrible. It ruins our lives.

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We are going to the presentation Monday to give you our opinions.

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Do you realize half the people at Wildwood Elementary are on free lunch, and now you want them to be cold, too?

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I'd like to make a complaint about the fireplaces our neighbors burn. The smell is awful, every weekend. There address is [street address] in Tacoma, 98406. I don't think they even burn wood it smells so bad. Their names are [names], their phone is xxx-xxxx. I'm calling to complain about the horrible smell. Can someone go by and tell them? I think they break up furniture to burn. Today is a beautiful day -- why are they even burning today? I am a concerned neighbor.

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I don't want another freedom taken away from me. Have you tested the air when there is NOT an inversion going on? Why not educate people that do have good stoves and fireplaces -- why not teach them to burn cleaner? I burn wood in a fire pit once or twice a year. We burn it hot, quickly, no leaves, and it doesn't bother anybody and I don't think it impacts the air quality. We have people across the street with a stove or fireplace and it gets smoky sometimes. If they were just taught how to burn cleaner and hotter. I enjoy the smell. I hope you can figure out a way around it before taking other freedoms away from us. I work downtown and don't notice an air quality problem, and live out on Pacific Ave and don't see a problem there. I wonder about your testing, and think there should be more education. I would love to be kept up to date. Send us updates

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If the air is harmful, then you should make new laws or conditions to the rules to improve our air. Thank you.

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It's Oct 17 at about 10:45, and there's a huge fire going on right now, creating lots of smoke, in the WSU Extension area, where they grow corn. It is a health hazard and a nuisance, and perhaps illegal. In clear sight of open road, going down Pioneer. Coincidence he just received postcard. He'd like to see more attention to all these sources of particulate pollution going on that are creating health hazards

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I live in the Puyallup area. I have questions – I don't think I can make the open house. Most of us have had to have for years and years, certified stove with less emissions. Please call. We don't use stove much, but do use in power outage or if really stove. Don't understand since we've had to have a certified stove. Please call me.

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My neighbor just had you come out and replace his wood stove with a forced air system. He suggested I call. My sole source of heat for house is wood stove. I bo thru 12-15 cords of wood a year. Is there a program to help me? Any info would be greatly appreciated.

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Neither me nor my next-door neighbor burn wood. However, my neighbor's smoke from the fireplace across the street impacts my asthma and allergies, which I have always had, (next door neighbor hasn't in past, but is now being affected too). We don't want to cause bad feelings between neighbors. I think perhaps their chimney just needs cleaning? Please call/write with name of someone to talk to who can help alleviate/eradicate problem before wood smoke season. I am out alot and my answering machine is in French (but you don't have to leave a message in French).

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I participated in your wood stove changeout program in 2009. I could not attend the public meetings, but wanted to know what had happened at it. I think the draft strategies being considered seemed reasonable. Please keep me informed in the future.

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I would like to ask you not to over-legislate our right to have an occasional wood fire in clean fireplace, w/aged wood, burning hot so no smoke. We only burn three or four times a year. We are responsible burners. Please don't make it so we can't do that anymore.

---

Woodstoves are nothing compared to heavy metal manufacturing. Every evening I ride my bike home from work on "D" St. in Puyallup and the air is toxic from this manufacturer. It's the worst I've ever come across – I can barely breathe. It's much worse than wood burning. Can't figure out where it's coming from and it's not every day. Please keep me informed.

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How do I get a wood moisture meter?

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Attended Puyallup Public Library talk. Thanks very much for the information (and for your patience with all of us at the mtg.) I'm now more aware of how to burn wood, and trying to burn cleanly. Please keep me informed.

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Please call my neighbor at [street address in North Tacoma] - (253) xxx-xxxx and tell them all the neighbors would like them to get their chimney cleaned. They burn in fireplace everyday with bad smoke hanging in the air.

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I couldn't attend meeting, and have no money and no computer. I have a chimney and occasionally burn (to dry out chimney). I try to be responsible. When people give me wood to burn, it's usually treated or painted, so I throw it in the trash. I have a lung and bronchial condition. I burn to save electricity costs, but burn tree wood. What should I do to dry out my chimney (if not burn wood)?

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Please keep me informed (by mail).

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Your phone message is old, out-of-date, reinforces view of governmental incompetency, and is too long. My neighbors across the street burn wood. The smoke is blue and smells bad. My advice is to be more proactive in educating people; send someone to visit if a complaint is received. Burning should be outlawed, but realistically if not outlawed, then it should be done highly efficiently.

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I have a certified woodstove. Are they good to have for burning wood?

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City of Tacoma back in the 70s converted everybody from oil-fired to electric-fired furnaces, and oversized the furnaces. They limped along and are now are worn out, with fried wires because of oversized furnaces. We all got bad wiring from the city of Tacoma. They actually paid people to oversize these furnaces. So now we have wiring issues, so many of us burn wood. I still have my receipt I'm getting a new furnace on Monday, but had had to replace a lot of wiring. The contractors were ordered the size of furnace to put in. Do you have a program with a white male, retired captain -- I doubt, but that would be nice. But that's the way it is. ADD'L MSG FROM SAME CALLER: If you have a program to pay for fixes to wiring, I would like to participate. Otherwise, I will have to burn wood to heat my home. ADD'L MSG FROM SAME CALLER: \*Reiterated concern about City-led furnace changes in 60s/70s leading to wiring problems in homes due to oversized furnaces. Lives in 1927 home in South End of Tacoma.

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Tell people who smoke cigarettes to stop. It gives them chronic obstructive lung disease (and that's the problem). They need to take care of themselves. Stop punishing everybody else. Most of the time the contaminant problem is ozone, not particulate matter. I realize that during inversions in the winter

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there is a problem, and during that time we observe and don't burn wood then.

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### **Input Provided at Public Open House**

#### ***Graffiti Wall: "What is Most Important to You about Air Quality in Tacoma and Pierce County?"***

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Cars, trucks, planes, fireplaces, especially diesel

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If I can't see the bottom of Mt. Rainier and the foothills because they are brown (sometimes the whole mountain is brown), I know the air is not clean. Also, burning by neighbors restaurant and burning recreational fires stink. Also busy road next to home - can't [illegible] in rush hour.

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Difficult to breathe! Must keep windows closed all the time! At times, blue haze over all neighborhood!

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No more talk; no more hesitation; get tough! Ban burning!

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Q: How are we supposed to stay warm and healthy if we can't use our fireplace when heating [illegible] is too expensive to afford?

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I agree with the above statement!!

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I third the statement - cannot afford oil heat anymore and have invested in high efficiency wood stove.

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I have 389-gallon oil heat and wood. Senior fixed income. School buses need service.

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Enforce the burn ban - it is a health problem. New homes don't have fireplaces for wood.

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In this economy people need to save money, especially since the EPA and so-called man-made global

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warming scare is making fossil fuels go up in cost. We already have burn bans at certain times in place. The EPA strengthened rules in 2006. EPA has run amok. Nobody trust them anymore. Closing down all kinds of businesses like raw milk products and making it impossible to have cool plants. Until we find other sources of fuel. Over 50% of heat is by coal. So what do we do? Go back to the dark ages. Don't go overboard!

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Is this self-reporting? Yes! Placement of measurement instruments and additional testing seeking out hot spots is stupid!

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That the issue of smoke nuisance is majority addressed - proper steps taken. Certified stoves, recreational fires, proper wood fuel.

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Ban burning in all areas in order to have healthy air to breathe.

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In University Place our air quality sucks. Too many people burning garbage and backyard burns burning yard waste. Very hard to breathe. Who's certified?

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We have very good air quality. Don't mess with it.

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In 1976 I was on sabbatical leave as chemistry professor at Pacific Lutheran University. I attended classes at the University of Washington, co-authored a publication in the Journal of Atmospheric Sciences with a staff member of the Air and Water Resources group of the Department of Civil Engineering, and began a laboratory research project with a professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences. Subsequently I was appointed to two terms on the Advisory Council of the then-named Puget Sound Air Pollution Control Agency. At that time, the Asarco smelter, Kaiser aluminum plant and Reichhold Chemical Company, among others, were still in full operation. Laboratory analyses showed that even then on the Tacoma Tidelands, particulate pollution from residential wood burning exceeded the total from industrial activities. I also learned that wood smoke contains more carcinogens than tobacco smoke does. Since then I have covered up both fireplaces in our home and never use them. However, even with all doors and windows closed, we can smell wood smoke indoors from the fairly new pizza parlor three blocks away. There is no valid reason other than an advertising gimmick for pizza to be wood-smoked; if the smoke actually is ingested, it is a pollutant. The smoke is actually inhaled, and it is actually a pollutant. Such archaic practices should not be permitted when costly changes to vehicle and industrial operations are required. [name] - (copy of email dated 10/12/11)

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I work on Canyon Road, South Hill. There is usually a brown haze over the road from 104th to 112th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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***Feedback on Draft Pollution-Reducing Strategy: Enhanced Enforcement***

<b>What do you really like about this idea?</b>	<b>What concerns do you have?</b>
Nothing	Government at all levels has overstepped their constitutional bounds.
Only for those burning items not wood, i.e., garbage, treated lumber, etc.	The burn ban is not updated on the phone number frequently enough. You can accidentally be burning when the ban is on.
Must be done ASAP. Put real teeth in this	Slow reaction to enforcement to change behavior

What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
Nothing	Government at all levels has overstepped their constitutional bounds.
Only for those burning items not wood, i.e., garbage, treated lumber, etc.	The burn ban is not updated on the phone number frequently enough. You can accidentally be burning when the ban is on.
enforcement. To burn, must be certified and licensed. No grandfather clause.	and habits
Only enforcing against "real" problem homewoners that constantly burn unseasoned wood.	Targetting homeowners just because wood is being burned without regard to the owner's honest efforts to do the right thing.
This is much better than forcing people to change their stoves.	Allow an exception on any burn ban if the power is out! In that case, it's an emergency and many people use stoves and fireplaces mainly for power outages. What about rural areas? Should be more flexible there with less density population.
Very good idea.	
	Should be used not to fine on first offense, but should be used to educate and find out if burner is using non-certified stove and if so, then force removal of uncertified within one month or face huge fine.
Good idea, but who will check the stacks to see if any given system is out of compliance? Cost? Voluntary register and test. If you can prove you can keep a clean stack, you should be able to keep the system.	Some original systems should be grandfathered by date of installation, provided users are educated in how to "keep a clean stack." I have at least one neighbor who heats only with wood and this house has done so since it was built. Mine is 1908, his is similar year.
Yes, we need more of them.	Enforcing them. Taking care of offenders.
Would be an incentive not to burn.	I don't appreciate the "smoke police" skulking around neighborhoods. Be open and obvious - talk to people who burn. Educate!
Agree. We need to have burn bans. I have a Regal stove and will not burn during a burn ban.	Concern with people who do not follow rules.
Burn bans on outside trash burning is a great improvement for the environment. I do see, slowly, more regulations that will eliminate all wood burning.	Need a system so everyone knows when the ban is in effect. I watch my desktop screen that usually has the ban posted but not always. This shows up with the weather info. Why not always?
It's a necessary evil. Teaching is a good idea.	
Nice idea on paper.	Not enough enforcement "officers." How to implement?
Too many scofflaws out there.	None!
	I'm confused. "Enhanced" vs. what? My fireplace insert is my primary source of heat. If it's cold out, I have no choice. I burn.
It's educational. It lets people know we're serious about burn bans. Need to make sure we get	Currently no night enforcement. Need technology to evaluate and enforce at night.

What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
Nothing	Government at all levels has overstepped their constitutional bounds.
Only for those burning items not wood, i.e., garbage, treated lumber, etc.	The burn ban is not updated on the phone number frequently enough. You can accidentally be burning when the ban is on.
maximum coverage on TV, radio and newspaper to inform a burn ban is in effect.	
This would give the authorities and studies of the people having problems and identify who needs the help most of all.	That people will be afraid to get in trouble when they don't have funds enough to keep warm and/or healthy enough to survive the winter months.
It can be done incrementally. It doesn't require new justifications or types of programs.	It gives more burden only on those already burdened.
Targets the specific problem.	Need more education on penalties, etc. Concerned about cost of enforcement.
Attention will be given when really needed.	Singling out and picking on defenseless people.
Clean air is a must. However, those of us who burn need to be responsible and report the non-compliant.	Will it cost us more money to monitor this? How will it be monitored?
Yes to increased communication and permit/registration system.	No to nighttime enforcement. No more big brother!
This can be used as an educational tool.	The cost of enforcement
	Wood burning only source of heat - allow permits for those in need.
One thing I agree with to enhance is if you require people who have a stove as the only source of heat - must have an efficient stove (certifieds are not efficient). Change standards for "certified" - the Franklin stove was a great invention. Why not?	Don't limit rights to burn more than you do now - maybe enhanced enforcement of CURRENT laws.
Nothing	Afraid of unwarranted inspections without cause.
	Keep two-stage burn ban. Concerned about more paid "inspectors."
Solves a problem.	Temporary, difficult for low income
The idea is very good.	The wood burning usually takes place late at night, making enforcement difficult.
Need to do this to clean up the air.	How to enforce? What kind of penalties?
Would make burn bans more effective.	None, really.
We are giving too much time. The ban should start sooner. We are living in a city, not in an area where fewer homes are. We live too close together. Stop the bad air!	If we give too many choices, people won't react. More info to owners, by mail or newspaper or flyers. Consider it is a health problem!
	I don't like the Police State mentality. This will morph into another agency strategy for revenue enhancement, especially when your agency funding is out. You'll have police citing

What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
Nothing	Government at all levels has overstepped their constitutional bounds.
Only for those burning items not wood, i.e., garbage, treated lumber, etc.	The burn ban is not updated on the phone number frequently enough. You can accidentally be burning when the ban is on.
	homeowners and the money will go to the general fund. Another win-lose idea. Can't you come up with any win-win ideas? Come up with ideas that will save us money and time.
	Enhanced enforcement would probably divert funds that could support programs to help people change devices. I don't like my in-home choice being monitored. What the structure of warning/fines would be. People need to burn during power outages. What if they coincide with an inversion layer?
This is a clear, targeted policy to make a significant impact during times which affect public health most significantly.	
Nothing	We don't have an air pollution problem, we have a regulation problem. More lies, more of our freedoms gone, more big Government. When is it going to stop?
Don't like	Big brother is watching
I would love it if this would be enforced. Our neighbor does not obey the burn ban and it is horrible to live there in the winter for us.	How long does it take for someone to come out when this happens?
Prefer this be included and that burn bans begin earlier when atmospheric conditions warrant. Eliminate 1 and 2 - just start it.	
Within limits okay but I see this getting way out of hand and becoming a money maker for counties instead of used for the intended purpose. Strongly against more regulations - we, the people, are having way too many rules forced on us and losing our freedom of choice.	Misuse, ridiculous rules
Nothing	Government control of natural resources and society
Yes, we need the "smoke police." It may seem draconian to some, but with an acting authority, people will do as they please.	
These bans should be enforced. This would be wonderful as our neighbor doesn't care about burn bans. He just does what he wants to do all the time.	Would someone be able to come right out?
How about education first, then if continued,	



What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
Nothing	Government at all levels has overstepped their constitutional bounds.
Only for those burning items not wood, i.e., garbage, treated lumber, etc.	The burn ban is not updated on the phone number frequently enough. You can accidentally be burning when the ban is on.
mandatory education then fines?	
Nothing	Unreasonable enforcement
Good for bad stoves	Cost of using the alternative fuels - \$30/day for electricity in our house. \$31/million BTU electricity, \$9/million BTW alder @ \$160/cord.
Nothing	There are levels and circumstances to life. "Enhanced" equals harsh draconian treatment of folks least able to conform. By your own stats, \$100,000 would change out the 25,000 non-compliant wood stoves. Far cheaper than "enhanced" enforcement.
Greater support in getting polluting neighbors to understand the issues but not significant amount of penalties imposed on them to stop it.	Neighbors who burn despite even having a person knock on their door - if cleared to EPA - nothing done not even return call. Just retaliates by doing it more and uses more trash to smoke us out worse. I have to buy health insurance and pay drug and other health costs. I can't afford new heat costs, too!
Don't like!	We don't need another regulatory agency that takes our money along with our freedoms. There are many areas throughout the USA that are dirtier and more pollution than the Puget Sound region.
Nothing. Pretty sure "enhanced" means neighbors telling on neighbors. Saddam Hussein used this very effectively until his removal.	Can't enforce drunk driving, cell phone use during meetings (like this), so is there going to be helicopters with infrared radar? Or are you going to just drive around?
	Targeting poorer residents. A negative approach. These are typically on the very coldest winter nights and often impact the lowest income homes.
	Don't know how enforcement is done now. Requires too much resources, i.e., staff. It's also too spotty and possibly discriminating. Also creates fear and resistance and negative publicity, ill will between the citizens and PSCAA, and potentially between neighbors.
We do our part (burn dry wood in a certified device) and are frustrated that many others continue to burn treated wood, wet wood, garbage, etc. So better enforcement would help everyone.	How about text alerts?? Can there be citations for those selling/giving scrap that is not good fuel (e.g., "free wood" signs by piles of scrap, Craigslist posts)? What about reducing or eliminating dump fees for scrap wood to keep it out of the fuel stream? City-owned utilities such as Tacoma

What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
Nothing	Government at all levels has overstepped their constitutional bounds.
Only for those burning items not wood, i.e., garbage, treated lumber, etc.	The burn ban is not updated on the phone number frequently enough. You can accidentally be burning when the ban is on.
	Power offer a credit for those with a disabled person in the home. PSE does not. And, because of the way the lines run, there are families on South Hill getting Tacoma Power rates, while the rest of us do not. Is there a way to equitize this during the winter at least?
Need to do this! Pierce County does not enforce this enough. Many people in Graham fell trees, yard waste, etc., and burn these immediately while green and wet! This contributes greatly to pollution yet nothing gets done to come out and see this, and stop this, even when I reported it. By "fell trees" I mean 36-48" diameter Douglas-firs and burning the green branches for 3-5 days. Is this legal?	

***Feedback on Draft Pollution-Reducing Strategy: Removal of Uncertified Devices (Date Certain)***

What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
	Government has it's nose where it does not belong. Teach people how to burn hot clean fires.
A good way to send a clear "message" to stove owners when they need to comply and what they need to do. Simplified message is easy to convey.	Non-compliance, enforcement. How do we control/contain open hearth fireplaces burning wood?
	Will be considered an aggressive "attack" by some segments of the public.
Makes a permanent improvement. Can schedule to meet deadline. Gives protection to the victim.	Need to provide help to those who can't bear the cost.
Good idea if it can be regulated, but there must be a fund for those who can't afford it.	How is this going to be regulated? How will the PSCAA know which ones need to be replaced?
	No way, Big Brother!
Would promptly reduce emissions	Stove supply bottleneck - this would create a very large demand for stoves over a short period. Cost of enforcement could be high.
This helps solve some of the problem sooner, rather than later.	I can not continue to use my wood stove when air quality is good.
	Do not like government enforcement. Do voluntary enforcement.
Nothing	More government mandates to actually lower the quality of my life.
That it would help our neighborhood. Much	It wouldn't happen soon enough. Concerned

What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
needed program.	about educating our neighbors about this.
	No required removal of uncertified or certified wood stoves should be implemented without being coupled with adequate monetary incentives. No forced removal! A means test or sliding scale should be made part of any consideration of this option.
Helps solve the problem	Effect on low income persons
Good idea if economically feasible	No money
Remove stove whenever the burn ban has been violated	How do we follow up on the removal?
	I can't afford it now. Doubt I can later, regardless of when.
Probably the fastest way to compliance and cleaner air	How to enforce? What incentives to get compliance?
ASAP, get tax breaks, work with merchants for time period, give cost breaks. Require energy package.	Impacts on fixed income. Poor and elderly issues should be addressed and some form of assistance.
Would push us to stop polluting	How to help those who economically can't just stop using free wood or less costly wood sources and no other source?
It would be okay if all could afford it.	
This would be a good idea, but I believe we should be more concerned to completely ban the wood burning. My health is more important.	I feel the air around Lakewood is so bad that when I open my door the smoke enters my house. It is very unhealthy. I know more people voice this concern.
Good idea	Incentives should be fair and balanced. Wood stove sellers should be involved in teaching "smart" burning.
Good idea. We all need to be responsible.	May have to save in other areas.
	I use wood for heat in my garage/shop. There's no way to use the house heat pumps. This is a case of the only way to heat the room. Where do I stand on this? Another question I have is, under disaster conditions (i.e., no power), what will be said about wood burning? [e-mail]
	What about the certified stoves that use twice the wood? Don't come into my house to tell me how green I am.
It gives us a date certain to change out older wood burning stoves.	The cost to the homeowner - the economy isn't good and many people can't afford to upgrade.
Nothing. Enforce this only if it's their only source of heat, so you know it gets constant use and an efficient stove will save a LOT of pollution.	What about the person who has an old stove that only uses it when the power is out? You should also take into account if a person has an older stove or fireplace who also has central heat, so only burns wood occasionally.

What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
Nothing	Non-local government wants to take away our freedom.
It needs to be done - NOW!	None. Don't burn trees anymore - they produce oxygen!
	Depends on the household's needs and what help they need to heat their home.
Gets us out of non-attainment status the quickest	Should be used along with requirement for removal of old non-certified wood stoves from homes and replacement with certified wood stoves, pellet stoves or gas stoves at time of sale to speed up attainment.
Should test system. If in fact it is running "dirty" most of the time, then yes require removal. Due to fact that this is a federal requirement, federal funding for buy-back or upgrade should be made available. If you can prove clean stack, keep it.	Those who heat only with wood must be allowed to continue to do so. Educate educate educate. If you know how to run a fireplace, wood stove, etc., you can keep a clean stack.
	Folks can't afford to do this and it is further government control of our lives.
	Imposes deadline on households not able to afford an alternate heat source.
	Safeguards need to be in place for all the procrastinators. Feels like a strong-arm tactic...
Better air for me, my kids and grandchildren, or fish, [unreadable] and animals. Gives people a date to budget toward in coming up with funds to upgrade services.	People who will always find a way to not progress. I won't be able to afford pellets on-going on a fixed social security income of disability at age 56 for the rest of the my life.
Take all the old polluting wood burning devices and junk them. Require natural gas devices or propane burning devices. Clean up this mess by 2014.	
Secondary to time of sale, would be good. According to your figure, it would significantly reduce particulates.	Would a person be subsidized to replace such an appliance? Also get a tax credit for purchase.
Don't like this idea	Cost for low income and fixed income people
Firm date, no argument. Get it done.	Are inspectors going to go door-to-door? How will this be enforced?
Nothing	Until you do something about the prevailing winds, you will never have clean air.
Nothing	None. We're fine now.
Be on a voluntary basis.	Cost to the individual is prohibitive.
I like this idea. Give tax break or coupon to buy certified device. Tax builders more! Tax power companies more! Tax lumber industry.	
	Stop the studies. Money saved can go to changing the 25,000 wood stoves and fix/replace/put new into the fireplaces that need upgrading. Far

What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
	cheaper than training, vehicles, clothing, weapons for "enhanced enforcement."
It would push hesitant households (like mine) to make the change to a cleaner device.	I have a good household income and we cannot afford a new device or a furnace. I have doubts that other, lower-income families could afford it.
I would love a new higher efficiency stove.	I would not be able to purchase a new stove. I would need help to purchase a stove, not a rebate or refund or tax credit. I am unable to cover the up-front cost. I am low income and other than space heaters, this is my only heat.
No	The EPA is out of control.
	Gestapo tactics. Pretty sure we won't see this on the website.
Without an absolute date, people will not feel compelled to act.	
	The removal of these stoves with no (or little) incentive/assistance toward an EPA-approved wood burning stove is cost prohibitive. The need for wood burning devices assures independence not only during emergency outages, but in the event of a period of rapidly increasing energy costs.
This is the best idea. It would begin getting people to recognize they would have to do something. Some wouldn't wait.	Need some money to help low income people.
Setting a certain date for removal would be the best solution to remove an uncertified stove rather than waiting for someone to sell their house.	That something gets done to give people relief from this smoke. It's unlivable for us.
It's an idea. Don't the planes land at McChord?	Another win-lose idea, unless you provide significant homeowner incentives.
This is more efficient and fair.	
Feel this would help, but not solve the problem.	EPA standards always change, so you will always be out of compliance and then have to change out your stove.

***Feedback on Draft Pollution-Reducing Strategy: Removal of Uncertified Devices (Time of Sale)***

What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
The time for dawdling is over!	None - This has to be done! Health!
Doesn't burden those whose lives stay the same	Adds burden only to those undergoing severe change, often through misfortune. Makes realtor the enforcer. Can't schedule or predict when it will happen.
Easy to identify when the change occurs. Cost of	

What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
stove is only 1-5% of home cost.	
Nice try.	Not everyone can afford this - most sales are short sales. Will the finance companies have to be held to the same rules?
I won't be there to see it.	It will be less desirable to buy a home without a stove.
	Do not like government enforcement. Work on voluntary enforcement.
Enforcement would be cheap and very effective. Could be folded into home inspections.	It would seem that this would take far longer than we have.
I can continue to use my wood stove when air quality is good.	None
Helps solve the problem	Affects a very small portion of offenders
	If this removal requirement we implemented, all costs associated with it should be paid for by the agency!
Only for a house that has wood for it's only heat source and it's inefficient. But certified stoves ARE inefficient.	What about the certified ones stoves that use twice as much wood? What if I want to buy a house with a simple cheap stove or fireplace and it has central heat and I only want to use it for special occasions (atmosphere) or power outages?
A good start, a good way to get realtors, homeowners and buyers involved.	None, other than this cannot be the only solution.
Yes, must be done. Would prefer sooner than later, as soon as possible.	None, but should meet state of the art standards.
Nothing	Bankruptcy
This would help to a point, but not rapid enough.	How to help sellers to process out their wood stoves
I do not like this idea.	
	Difficult to ensure that the stove has been removed. How would one know that the stove has been removed following the sale? I feel the stove should be removed once the burning ban has been violated.
Nothing	As a realtor, I know of the onerous burdens already imposed on home sellers. To begin with, the state and county already have their hand out for 1.78% of the sales price. If the home is in Pierce County and has a septic system, the seller is required to pump and inspect (and give the county approx. \$300 for their "inspection"). The City of Tacoma tried to add another level of required inspections on sewer lines for home sellers, but met with resistance and was defeated. In this poor economy, to add yet another added cost to the home seller will make it even more difficult to



What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
	sell their home and further deepen the poor economy and slow the recovery of this area.
Sure!	I'll take it with me!
Agree. Should not sell old non-regulation stoves.	
We are living in such close environment. New homes don't have any wood stoves. Besides, wood is also expensive.	Most homeowners live here a long time. Right now there are few sales in the area. Health is more important. Doctors bills are high. In my neighborhood the smell is bad!
Time of sale puts an undue burden on sellers. I don't like this idea at all.	If the seller has little or no equity, they won't want to do this or it may even be not feasible financially. If it's a foreclosure or a short sale, the banks won't spend the money so the house won't sell.
	There are so many EPA rules now when you sell your house that it's almost impossible to sell without spending as much as the house is worth to conform. No more rules to sell a house! Certified burn too hot and cannot adjust heat. Wastes wood. What about rural areas? It should be more flexible as population density is much less.
Needs to be done.	The time zone. People of low income.
Nothing	It already costs too much to sell a house. NO!!
To cut down on pollution it's a good idea, but alternative system subsidizing must be made available through federal funding, this being a federal law. 24,000 x 2,000 = \$48,000,000. 48 million the feds won't give. Maybe interest simply loans like FEMA does.	Families won't be able to heat their homes.
	Costly to seller with major remodel necessary
Should be done	
This is probably the best way to handle phasing out older equipment.	There needs to be a start date.
Nothing	Private property rights are none of government's concern.
Extends time for low income households to adjust. Is a good start.	
Guarantees that it will be replaced at some point.	Many homes are not sold for decades, so this would take too long. Should be used along with date certain option.
It's a good idea.	May take years before property comes up for sale. Economy is depressed. Sales have dropped.
Involves appraisers, etc., in the process, spreading out the workload. Flexibility for the homeowner.	Will all agents/sellers be knowledgeable? Perception of "unfair" with all other costs associated with selling and buying
Good, fair idea. Easy to be prepared for.	Slow, but fair. Still this might get rid of the wood stoves, but not the fireplaces...
This is an excellent time to identify obsolete types of fireplaces and wood stoves and act to replace	

What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
them. Possibly offer county tax credits to those who act on their own to comply.	
This is workable - depends on way it is handled.	In the Pacific Northwest, homes need alternative resources when the power goes out.
Good idea - make realtors pay for this. Also give a tax break to those who do so voluntarily before a sale.	Who pays? Recommend Realtor. Tax builders more, power companies, and lumber industry.
Yes, let the new owner worry about it but make sure they are notified prior to the sale.	
Ensures that the new owners will be able to do better.	A lot of people who burn won't sell. My home has no furnace and I know I could not sell while that is the case.
Reasonable idea	A person inherits a home/property and cannot afford to replace the stove.
	Again, big Government running over the people.
Not really like the cost will be on the seller.	Takes too long for this to happen. Impacts low income people.
	This is too slow and may burden low income sellers who need to sell their homes.
Would eventually work. Would raise awareness and some would get rid of old stoves sooner.	Way too slow
It's a start, but needs to be "all" or possibly property tax reduction if they upgrade. If you use fireplace - given a pellet stove (basic model with back-up battery for no power days). Stop using fireplace - "propane fireplace inserts." "Wood burning permits" or registration. Stove inspections and licenser.	"I can't breathe when so many are used" and I have to use gas mask to get from my home out of area due to neighbors "trash fireplace burning" and dampin' down so tight it sends me to hospital or to leave area to friends' homes where I can stay until the burn ban is off. Plus this is when burn ban NOT on, too!
It's an idea.	Still another win-lose idea. This will create more costs to the sale unless there are significant incentives. This could easily become another source of revenge to the agency at the homeowner's expense. If you want to provide a service to the public then come up with win-win ideas.
Nothing	We don't have an air pollution problem. What we have is a regulation problem. More lies, more freedoms gone, more big government. When is it going to stop?
Good way to dispose of uncertified stoves/fireplaces	Cost of removal and repair of area. Disposal issue. Will there be a requirement to replace or just eliminate this heat source?
I think requiring upgrade at time of sale is a good idea.	
Good time to elimiate poor efficiency stoves.	Not enough homes sold, hence slow elimination of "bad" stoves.

What do you really like about this idea?	What concerns do you have?
	Okay idea, but where does the money come from? Will it come as at no cost to the owner? It would cost us \$6000 for a heat pump, \$8000 to get gas to our house.
Yes, I think this is a good idea. It gradually will remove old stoves from the home.	None. This is probably the best way to get rid of polluting units along with the exchange programs that are funded. However, funding is not necessary for an exchange if a wood burner can only get a certified, efficient unit.
I don't like anything about the idea of someone being able to wait to replace their uncertified wood stove when they sell their house. What if they never sell their house?	My concern is that the neighbors would have to put up with smoke in their houses, cars, clothes, hair and lungs until and unless the wood burning neighbor ever sells their home.