

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20460

**RE: The EPA's proposed sell-through amendment for Standards of Performance
for New Residential Wood Heaters, New Residential Hydronic Heaters and Forced-
Air Furnaces**

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

We urge you to revise the proposed New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for New Residential Wood Heaters, New Residential Hydronic Heaters and Forced-Air Furnaces^[1] to include wood and pellet stoves in its sell-through provision. If finalized soon, this revised rule would greatly benefit many rural businesses and the communities that they support.

Under current law, wood heaters that comply with Step 1 of the current NSPS, but are not certified to meet the Step 2 standards, cannot be sold beyond May 15, 2020. This harms manufacturers as retailers are reluctant to purchase inventory that will not be merchantable as soon as next year. Without retail sales, manufacturers are unable to fully fund engineering and testing of new products that will meet more stringent Step 2 standards. The proposed rule seeks to provide relief by allowing two categories of wood heaters, forced-air furnaces and hydronic heaters, to be sold regardless of their ability to comply with Step 2 for an additional two years through May 2022.

Excluded from the proposed rule's sell-through provision, however, are wood and pellet stoves. Due to the seasonal nature of the heating industry, which effectively limits the sales windows for stoves to seven months out of the year, we are concerned that wood and pellet stove retailers will not be able to sell their Step 1-certified inventories by the May 15, 2020 deadline.

We request that you expand the proposed sell-through provision to include wood and pellet stoves. This modest change is consistent with the rule's efforts to support the heating industry, allows our constituent retailers to sell their existing inventories, and provides manufacturers with the sales revenue needed to develop products that are compliant with Step 2. Further, we urge the Agency to finalize this rule as quickly as possible to provide regulatory certainty and avoid further disruption to the market.

^[1] 83 Fed Reg 61574 (November 30, 2018).

Thank you for your consideration.



COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress



H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress



CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
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BEN CLINE
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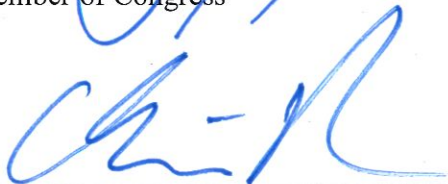
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