

From: Lance Roberts [<mailto:roberts.lance@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 7:44 AM
Subject: HB138 EPA Clean Air Act

To the House Resources Committee:

I would ask you to hold hearings and pass HB138 out of committee. We need to start standing up for our States rights on these issues, with protect our low-cost power being a primary concern.

I would also ask you to include language about not having the state enforce the new EPA woodstove regulations, as other states have recently done.

Here's one article for reference:

New EPA wood stove rules concern makers, users

By John Boyle and Davis A. Lieb, jboyle@citizen-times.com and Associated Press 7:40 a.m. EDT March 9, 2015



(Photo: Katie Bailey/bkbailey@citizen-times.com)

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While North Carolina doesn't register as a top wood-burning state, several mountain counties have high percentages of wood stove fans — and they're a passionate bunch.

So, they're a little skeptical of Environmental Protection Agency rules coming soon that will significantly limit pollution from newly manufactured residential wood heaters.

"The EPA has done quite a bit over the years to set emission standards for wood heat," said Weaverville resident Marilyn Ball, who's heated with wood for 37 years. "So (I'm) not sure what is prompting new regulations. What would Ben Franklin think?"

Some states with the most wood smoke are refusing to go along with the new regulations, claiming they could leave residents in the cold, literally.

North Carolina ranks 38th in particle emissions from residential wood burning, so it's not been a hot-button issue here yet. But it could impact future wood stove buyers and people who burn wood for heat — and it certainly will affect manufacturers.

"Any time you put regulatory means on the end product, more cost is going to be there for the manufacturer and the retailer — and always the customer," said Claudia Honeycutt, sales and marketing director for Spruce Pine-based New Buck Corp., maker of the popular Buck Stove brand of wood-burning stoves. "There's not a fight with us, though. You comply. Our stance is not a negative one against the EPA, because we all breathe the same air."

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