



RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REGULATION OF ALL WOOD BURNING DEVICES TO PROTECT AIR QUALITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH FROM WOOD BURNING EMISSIONS

Adopted 5-1-2008

WHEREAS, the Broome County Environmental Management Council (BCEMC) received a presentation from Corbeau Science & Technology about wood burning, specifically addressing health effects, combustion and smoke dispersion, air quality management issues and associated public policies at their general meeting October 4, 2007, and

WHEREAS, the BCEMC developed the accompanying white paper summarizing issues related to the impacts of wood burning on human health and air quality, and

WHEREAS, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the American Cancer Society and the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) all note that the components of wood smoke cause, contribute to, and complicate the symptoms of numerous respiratory, cardiovascular, auto-immune and eye disorders and diseases, including asthma, bronchitis, obstructive lung disease, cancer, cataracts, and eye inflammation, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in response to growing medical evidence, in 2006 proposed tightening the 24-hour air quality standard for smoke Particulate Matter (PM) concentrations from the current 65 micro-grams per cubic meter to 35 micro-grams per cubic meter, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) data establishes the statewide average PM concentration to be 15 micro-grams per cubic meter from all sources, and

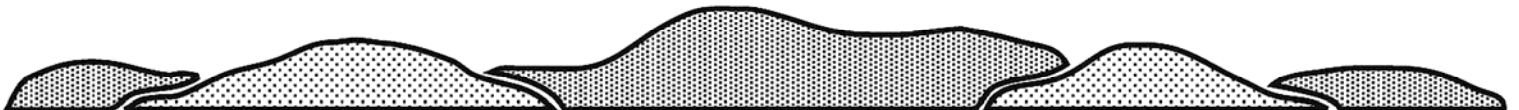
WHEREAS, wood burning is becoming an economically attractive source of energy, and increased demand coupled with inefficient wood burning technology may adversely impact the cost of fuel wood, local air quality, and the quality of forested ecosystems, and

WHEREAS, 6 NYCRR Part 247, a regulation to establish siting and stack height criteria as well as emission standards for outdoor wood boilers is listed on the DEC's 2008 Regulatory Agenda, and

WHEREAS, the EPA currently regulates indoor woodstoves but not other wood burning devices, and

WHEREAS, efficient wood combustion that maximizes energy production and minimizes smoke production is technologically challenging and requires devices that utilize state-of-the-art combustion chamber and heat exchanger design, and

WHEREAS, smoke concentrations in a locale can vary significantly, depending upon local topography, vegetation cover, wind speed and direction, cloud cover, atmospheric stability, smoke production rate and the number of wood burning devices within a locality, now therefore be it



RESOLVED, that the BCEMC calls on federal and state officials, including the U.S. EPA and NYS DEC to establish new federal and state standards and regulations that apply to all wood burning devices and that are more stringent than current regulations regarding indoor woodstove efficiency and emissions, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BCEMC calls upon federal and state officials, including the U.S. EPA and NYS DEC to establish standards and regulations that institute wood burning device setback standards based upon PM production rate and a comprehensive set of worst-case conditions to determine probable ambient smoke concentrations, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution and the accompanying white paper be transmitted to federal, state and municipal officials for their information and support.