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Sent: Friday, May 31, 2019 7:51 AM

To: noneil@energy350.com; Braaksma, Krista (DES) <krista.braaksma@des.wa.gov>; Anderson, Kjell (SBCC Member) <Kjell.Anderson@des.wa.gov>

Cc: carolyn.logue@comcast.net

Subject: WSEC R-27 – Gas Fireplace Efficiency (Proposed R402.4.2.1), WSEC R-28 – Pilot Lights (Proposed R403.1.3)

Friday, May 31, 2019

To: WA State Building Code Council Energy Code Technical Working Group,

The purpose of this letter is to respond to proposals to the Washington state building code(s) being considered to regulate “**decorative**” and “heater rated” gas fireplaces in the State of Washington. I represent Travis Industries Inc., we are the manufacturer of LOPI, Fireplace Xtordinary and DaVinci gas burning products, with a manufacturing facility in Mukilteo WA. We employ over 500 hard working men and women who reside in the State of Washington, and contribute to its economy.

We just became aware of this new proposal and we are alarmed to learn that some portions of the proposed regulations would be detrimental to our business, the future of our employees, their families and also the 150+ independent Washington State Hearth Retailers, their owners, employees and families in the State of Washington. Plus the many suppliers and their families providing components to manufacture and sell decorative fireplaces here in Washington.

We do acknowledge the appropriate nature of the proposal for Code Section # 403.1.3 and # 403.10.1. Clearly, the cost savings and the practicality of prohibiting standing pilots in gas fireplaces cannot be argued and we condone this proposal as written.

- However, we do have concerns regarding portions of the proposal to Code Section # 402.4: The clause “R402.4.2.1 Gas Fireplace Efficiency. All gas fireplaces designed to heat indoor space **and/or provide aesthetic appeal (decorative) shall be listed and labeled with a fireplace efficiency (FE) rating of 65% or greater** in accordance with CSA P.4.1-15.”

While the combustion of natural and propane gas does generate heat, many gas fireplaces are tested and certified to the ANSI Z21.88 CSA 2.33 Test standard for Vented Gas Fireplace Heaters because they are designed to heat indoor space. Requiring “heater rated” models to have 65%+ efficiency makes sense as they are used frequently. But, other fireplaces are tested and certified to ANSI Z21.50 CSA 2.22 Test Standard for Vented Decorative Appliances because they are designed specifically for their decorative appeal to be used occasionally for entertaining and will not meet this efficiency number. This is a very important distinction because some consumers just want the decorative appeal gas fireplaces provide and they are not interested in the heat they generate.

Both the British Columbia regulation and Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) proposed amendment **excluded Decorative Gas Fireplaces** from the minimum efficiency limitations posted for Heater models. Economic Impact Data Sheet Calculations are based upon the Energy Trust of Oregon’s 2017 survey, but what the survey appears not to ask is whether or not the gas fireplace is being used to heat during the

usage period. The assumption appears to be that consumers only use their gas fireplace to heat and disregards the preference to use them for the atmosphere they provide in their home.

- **The limitation of Decorative Gas Fireplaces to a maximum 9,000 BTU** would also be detrimental to that market and the industry. Less than 1% of the Decorative Gas Fireplaces currently on the market would meet this limitation all but eliminating this category for customers to purchase and enjoy.

In summary, we ask that those reviewing this proposal, consider that decorative gas fireplaces not be pigeon holed into existing heating appliance categories as they are in fact, unique gas appliances for limited use that look great whether off or on. Prohibit the standing pilot, but do not require minimum efficiencies or maximum BTU's.

As previously stated, prohibiting standing or continuous pilots is practical and requiring a minimum efficiency on heater rated gas fireplaces is a reasonable approach. This alone will effectively achieve your goals.

As a manufacturer of hearth appliances, we hope that any regulations the Washington State Building Code may apply to gas fireplaces, might be aligned with those in other constituencies to provide a consistent and clear message.

If I can provide further clarity on any of these points or other matters concerning gas fireplaces, please do not hesitate to contact me directly and thank you for considering the points presented here.

Warm Regards,

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