

Oppose Rouzer Amendment to H.R. 8 Blocking EPA's Important Wood Heater Standards

Dear Colleague,

Today, the House is considering amendments to H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security Act of 2015. An amendment from Reps. David Rouzer (NC) and Jason Smith (MO) would block EPA's standards for residential wood heaters that were finalized earlier this year. I oppose this amendment and encourage all members to vote NO.

The wood heater standards will provide important health benefits by cutting harmful air pollution, including particle pollution, carbon monoxide, and air toxics. Particle pollution causes a range of adverse health effects including asthma, heart attacks, and stroke. This is particularly true in communities where homes are primarily heated by burning wood. This amendment puts public health at greater risk, as people would be able to buy and use outdated wood heaters well into the future.

EPA estimates that the benefits of these standards will be up to \$7.6 billion annually. In other words, for every dollar spent to manufacture cleaner wood heaters, we will see up to \$165 in health benefits. Blocking this rule is irresponsible.

Contrary to some suggestions, these new standards would NOT require anyone to replace wood heater models they currently own. The standards apply only to the manufacturing of new wood heaters, and provide a reasonable 5-year phase in period to allow manufacturers time to adapt.

If this amendment is adopted, we will be forced to rely on outdated standards from 30 years ago that do not reflect modern technology. Manufacturers already have the ability to make cleaner, more efficient, and cheaper wood heaters. The new standards were developed in close consultation with manufacturers, as well as state, local and tribal government and other interested stakeholders.

These are reasonable standards with important benefits and they should not be blocked. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and vote NO on the Rouzer/Smith wood heaters amendment.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce