



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

August 16, 2011

OFFICE OF
AIR QUALITY PLANNING
AND STANDARDS

Mr. Colby Dehoff
Whitacre Greer
1400 S. Mahoning Ave.
Alliance, Ohio 44601

Dear Mr. Dehoff,

The voluntary wood-burning fireplace program was undertaken by EPA to encourage the development and sale of a new generation of lower emitting fireplaces. We are pleased that your company has a qualified masonry model that meets the EPA Phase 2 emission level of 5.1 grams particle pollution per kilogram of wood burned (g/kg). **These fireplaces are over 70 percent cleaner than existing wood burning fireplaces. While EPA does not endorse one qualified fireplace over another, we encourage builders and other to select from the cleaner burning fireplaces listed on <http://www.epa.gov.burnwise/fireplacelist.html>.**

Our qualification of fireplaces under the voluntary program is based on test results of each model conducted by approved test laboratories and certified by ISO-accredited third party laboratories. EPA was closely involved in the development of the ASTM test method for qualifying new fireplace models under EPA's voluntary program. However, fireplaces "qualified" under EPA's voluntary fireplace program are not "certified" per EPA's Wood Heater New Source Performance Standards. In your marketing and communications, we request that you use the term "EPA Qualified" to describe your product to reduce confusion on the part of consumers, builders, and air quality officials.

We applaud your efforts to develop and manufacture these cleaner burning fireplaces and hope that builders will install your qualified models instead of unqualified models. It is to everyone's advantage to improve the air quality. **EPA encourages state and air quality officials that allow fireplace construction to promote EPA qualified over unqualified fireplace installations.**

I hope we continue to see improvements in air quality across the country And that you are successful in the marketing and sales of your qualified models.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg A. Green".

Gregory A. Green
Director

Outreach and Information Division

cc: David Kelly, Clear Skies Unlimited