



March 2018

**Summary of H.R. 1917, Section 3 (incorporating text of H.R. 453)
RELIEF FROM NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ACT OF 2017
Committee on Energy and Commerce, Democratic Staff**

Section 3 of H.R. 1917 incorporates the text of H.R. 453, the Relief from New Source Performance Standards Act of 2017. Section 3 delays implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Step 2 emissions standards for three categories of wood-fueled heaters: residential wood stoves, hydronic heaters, and forced-air furnaces. If this bill were to become law, the standards to improve emissions performance of these appliances would be delayed until 2023.

EPA's Residential Wood Heater Rule. Federal emission standards for wood stoves have not been updated for nearly 30 years. And, EPA never set standards for wood-fueled heating appliances (e.g. outdoor wood boilers) that entered the market after 1988. EPA has responsibility under section 111 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) to set standards of performance for new stationary sources that cause or contribute significantly to air pollution that could endanger public health. Standards are set to reflect the best systems of emission reduction taking costs and other factors into consideration. EPA finalized a rule in 2015 to institute performance standards for the different classes of new residential wood heaters. Under the rule, manufacturers have until 2020 to comply with the new standards. Many states have programs that offer incentives to encourage residents to replace older appliances with cleaner burning, more efficient ones. However, the rule does not apply to existing units or require anyone to purchase new equipment.

H.R. 1917 Delays Implementation of New Wood Heater Standards. Section 3 delays implementation of new standards by three years, until 2023. Since these appliances typically last for 25 years or more once installed, any delay results in decades of additional pollution generated in and around peoples' homes where they receive significant exposure to these harmful emissions. A proliferation of nuisance complaints about the pollution from outdoor wood boilers led many local communities to adopt ordinances restricting or outlawing the installation of these appliances. However, 2020-compliant products are both cleaner and more efficient, generating more heat per unit of wood burned and making them less expensive to operate. Manufacturers who invested in development of compliant appliances are hoping to expand the market with their new, more efficient, cleaner products. They will be penalized by the delay, while those that did not make the necessary investments will benefit at their expense and the expense of the public's health.

Bad Policy and Bad Precedent. Section 3 represents bad public health policy and bad economic policy. The delay unfairly punishes innovative companies that invested to produce cleaner, more efficient compliant products by the original deadline. And, it allows less efficient, dirtier operating products to remain on the market and in operation for decades into the future.

Putting Polluters Before Public Health. Wood smoke contains considerable amounts of fine particle pollution, carbon monoxide, benzene, formaldehyde, and other toxic pollutants associated with increased asthma attacks, heart attacks, and premature death. Residential wood combustion accounts for hundreds of thousands of tons of fine particle pollution particularly in winter months. Passing this bill would result in tons of additional pollution being released into the environment leading to associated illness and premature deaths. **Section 3 of the BRICK Act represents another attempt by Republicans to put the wishes and profits of polluters before the health and safety of Americans.**