

Letter to The Fresno Bee

Close the fireplace flue

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012

Mike Simmons wrote recently that he doesn't want the government telling him when he can use his fireplace, though by his own admission, we have had poor air quality since Thanksgiving. I'm sure that he is only too glad for other laws and regulations that protect him, his family and his property.

Violence, theft, vandalism, fraud, reckless driving, smoking on airplanes, exposure to toxic chemicals, unfair labor practices and contaminated food are just a few of the things that are regulated to protect us. Like speed limits, air quality regulations restrict personal actions for the greater good.

For weeks, I have felt like I have a vice around my chest. I am tired of coughing and constantly clearing my throat due to the congestion produced by my irritated lungs. If Mr. Simmons wants to use his fireplace when air quality is so unhealthy, he has every right to do it -- as long as he doesn't open his chimney flue.

Just like Mr. Simmons wouldn't want someone else's garbage dumped on his property, I don't want anyone else's smoke in my lungs.

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Fresno