

[Editorial, Tulare Advance-Register](#)

Air pollution fees on new homes in overkill

Nov. 26, 2003

State Sen. Dean Florez' air-pollution bills include a provision that charges builders -- and, in turn, new-home buyers -- a fee for air pollution.

No, homes don't pollute, but by the Shafter Democrat's way of thinking, the people who live in those homes do pollute the air by driving to and from work or shopping. Thus the fee. While charging a fee is now law, how much that fee will be is still to be decided.

According to those in the building industry, there was an attempt to impose a \$5,000 fee in 1995, but the Tulare-Kings Building Industry Association was able to defeat that.

The construction industry points out it is already doing a lot to reduce pollution by creating clean-air neighborhoods where fewer homes are being constructed with wood-burning fireplaces, electrical connections have been installed for electric cars and gas jets for gas barbecues. There are 27 such neighborhoods between Hanford and Porterville.

First, no one has ever explained how a fee reduces air pollution. Florez' bill imposes a fee on growth, but it is placed on home builders, when maybe it should be placed on new residents to the state and maybe on births. After all, they are the main cause for growth in the state.

The fee on homes should be minimal. It will do little to lower pollution. It will increase the cost of housing, and it will possibly hurt the local economy by reducing construction.

[Letter to the Editor, Bakersfield Californian](#)

Air board misfires

Posted Nov. 25, 2003 at 6:20 p.m.

I just finished looking at the AQI on the weather page for Nov. 18. The prognosticators said that the AQI would be 154, thereby declaring the day a "Wood Burning Prohibited" day.

The next day the AQI listed for Nov. 18 was 74. Do I smell some smoke here or what?

Maybe the Air Quality Control Board should be fined if they miss their guess at what the AQI is going to be. Or will they let us burn on another prohibited day to make up for depriving us of our nice warm evening fire on the day they misfired.

WILL WINN, Bakersfield

[Letter to the Editor, Fresno Bee](#)

Wintertime no burn days: 'We should do it for others'

By Terri Broderick

Fresno

Wednesday, November 26, 2003, 5:31 AM

I recently saw a gentleman interviewed on the news saying that he would continue to burn wood, even on mandatory non-burn days, as a matter of principle. He obviously doesn't have anyone close to him suffering from respiratory problems caused by our bad air.

My mother is fighting a battle with lung cancer; friends' children are suffering from asthma. I personally will choose not to burn when asked not to.

To those who will not heed the request and the rules, I say, for shame. We should do it for others.

What a selfish society we have become.