

Timberwolf Introduction

Hi, my name is Jim Powles. My wife, Stacey, and I own Timberwolf Furnace Company in Muskegon, Michigan. We have been manufacturing and distributing Timberwolf outdoor wood boilers and accessories for 15 years. We are a small business currently employing 3 people. We have employed as many as 8, and as few as 1.

On average we sell about 100 boilers per year. We rely on 22 individual companies to supply us with the materials and products to run our business. 19 out of 22 of these companies are in Michigan. In 2013 we spent over \$240,000 for our supplies from our Michigan suppliers.

We are a Michigan company doing business with many other Michigan companies. If the EPA proposed regulations are put into effect, it would not only hurt o.w.b. manufacturers, but other companies as well.

Survey conducted by Timberwolf Furnace Co.

We surveyed 50 current Timberwolf o.w.b. (outdoor wood boiler) owners. The average age of household members was 29 years.

100% of those surveyed reported no negative impact on anyone using the o.w.b. and 87% said there was a positive impact. These positive impacts included fewer allergy symptoms due to less dryness in the air, fewer sinus issues, and a decrease in arthritis pain due to the ability to afford keeping their homes warmer.

The average income of those who chose to answer was:

\$20,000-\$40,000 -- 60%

\$40,000-\$60,000 --36%

\$60,000-\$80,000 -- 4%

The average savings per year on heating costs were \$2,374.00. Six of the 50 surveyed saw no change in heating cost because they previously used an indoor wood stove. When asked if they would have been able to afford an o.w.b. if the purchase price had been 50% higher, 72% said no.

Of those who saw savings, 100% said they were better able to afford necessities, and even enjoy some extras, such as dinner out, a movie, etc..., thus investing those savings in our Michigan economy.

To summarize, the people who use o.w.b. do so to be able to keep their families warm during our cold Michigan winters while still being able to provide the necessities. While the average annual household income in Michigan is \$46,000-\$52,000, 60% of those on our survey earn less than that. Making it harder for these people to obtain an affordable o.w.b. hurts not only them, but our economy. According to our survey, if the proposed regulations are implemented, the majority of our low income prospective o.w.b. users will not be able to provide adequate heat for their families in the future.

Survey Summary

1. Has your o.w.b. had a negative effect on anyone in your household?
No -- 100 %
2. Has your o.w.b. had a positive effect on anyone in your household?
Yes -- 84%
3. Average age of household members.
29 years
4. What was your source of heat prior to using an o.w.b.?
Propane -- 52%
Indoor wood stove and propane -- 24%
Fuel oil -- 8%
Other -- 16%
5. What was the average cost per year to heat your home prior to using an o.w.b.?
\$2,488.00
6. What is the average cost per year to heat your home when using an o.w.b.?
\$114.00
7. Would you say having an o.w.b. has improved your quality of life?
Yes -- 88%
8. Has your family been better able to afford everyday necessities because you are spending less on heat?
Yes -- 88%
9. Has your family been better able to afford extras because of saving money on heating costs?
Yes -- 88%
10. Average household income:
\$20,000 - \$40,000 -- 60%
\$40,000 - \$60,000 -- 36%
\$60,000 - \$80,000 -- 4%
11. Do you think you would have been able to purchase your o.w.b. if the initial cost had been 50% higher or more?
No -- 72%