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Healthy Hearth
30521 Coplaza Street
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To Whom It May Concern,

In the spring of 2016, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors authorized the development of and funding for the Maricopa County Fireplace Retrofit Program (MCFRP). This program was developed to improve air quality by retrofitting existing fireplaces with cleaner wood-burning alternatives at little or no cost to residents. The goal of the program is to reduce the levels of particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) during the wood burning season in the areas of Maricopa County that are most impacted by PM_{2.5}.

One of the options selected for the MCFRP program as the safest and most effective means of reducing PM_{2.5} emissions was the installation of a catalytic emission reduction device. Clear Skies was selected as the contractor to provide installation of the catalytic emission reduction device (the HearthCAT). Installation of a HearthCAT device is ideal in areas where there is no natural gas service to the property and/or where homeowners prefer to maintain a wood-burning fireplace.

Based on information provided by Clear Skies, the HearthCAT has demonstrated a 70 percent reduction of PM_{2.5} emissions. The device requires no power or maintenance, is an EPA Phase II Qualified device. It is relatively easy to install and because it is installed in the chimney above the fireplace, it is not visible. The device also improves the heating efficiency of a fireplace. The installation cost is approximately \$900 and the funding set aside by Maricopa County pays for 100% of this cost.

To date, approximately 120 HearthCAT installations have been completed by Clear Skies. Annual wood-burning season PM_{2.5} emission reduction averages between 3.0 – 7.8lbs per home. Multiplying that average by the number of retrofits completed to date (117) results in a reduction in PM_{2.5} of between 351lbs and 913lbs. In total, potentially 913lbs of PM_{2.5} have been prevented from being released to the air.

Given the program's success, it has been continued in fiscal year 2018 and is also planned for fiscal year 2019.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip McNeely".

Philip McNeely, Director
Maricopa County Air Quality Department