

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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Senate of Pennsylvania

January 31, 2007

Dennis C. Wolff, Secretary
 Department of Agriculture
 Room 211; Agriculture Office
 Building and Laboratories
 2301 North Cameron Street
 Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Secretary Wolff:

This letter is a follow-up to our conversation yesterday regarding the proposed regulation issued by the Department of Agriculture and published in the December 16th edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin as it relates to Dog Law Enforcement.

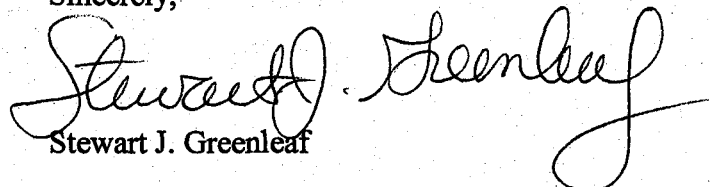
While I support and applaud the need for more stringent criteria regulating "puppy mills," I am concerned that the proposed regulation, as currently written, will negatively effect animal research facilities located in my district, as well as throughout the Commonwealth. I have also communicated with you concerns I have received from small breeders about the proposed changes in the current rule.

As you may be aware, animal research facilities are regulated by federal law. These facilities are required to undergo annual inspections by licensed veterinarians and activities must be supervised by approved veterinarians. The proposed regulation would require such facilities to retro-fit various items (i.e., air handling and ventilation systems, drains). It is my understanding that the construction costs associated with these changes typically range from \$600 - \$700 per square foot, which would impose costs in the millions-of-dollars for these research facilities.

Given that animal research facilities already comply with strict federal law, I would appreciate if the department would review the rule's application to these facilities and/or consider adopting existing federal law in this area. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact my office.

Thanks for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


 Stewart J. Greenleaf

SJG:ep

cc: Independent Regulatory Review Commission
 Senator Mike Brubaker, Chairman, Senate Agriculture
 and Rural Affairs Committee

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