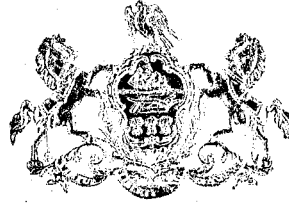


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34TH DISTRICT
SENATOR JAKE CORMAN

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Senate of Pennsylvania

January 31, 2007

Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender:

On behalf of the responsible dog owners and breeders of the 34th Senatorial District, I strongly request the reconsideration of the Dog Law Enforcement Proposed Regulations [7 PA Code Chs. 21, 23, 25 and 27].

While we all certainly agree with protecting the health, safety and welfare of our animal population, these proposed regulations diverge far from their intended goal. Not only do they go well beyond other state and federal requirements, they also surpass any logical or practical explanation.


It is easy to understand our citizens' outrage over this proposal. Many would opine that placing requirements that do not allow dogs to be on grass or to exercise and socialize with dogs of another weight class is inhumane treatment. Clearly these regulations do more to penalize reputable breeders than protect the dogs in their care.

As a Senator who is responsible for the fiscal matters of this Commonwealth, it is with great interest that these proposed regulations claim to not increase costs on political subdivisions or the general public. What it does not speak to is the increased costs that will be absorbed by dog owners, small business owners and the Commonwealth. It will be the breeders that must meet all of these requirements and unfortunately, they will be forced to pass some of these costs along to the families and individuals in our communities.

Not only will it cost our taxpayers, but implementing and enforcing these regulations will require a significant increase in state resources. The regulations will necessitate the hiring and training of additional dog wardens. These costs must be reflected as they will have a fiscal impact on the Commonwealth.

Until the department is able to justify the rationale for these changes, the best course of action is to properly implement and enforce current laws and regulations. I look forward to your consideration of this request and would like to hear of your intent to make the necessary changes to this onerous and misguided proposal.

Sincerely,


Senator Jake Corman

JDC/jh

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