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Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron St
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

January 3, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender:

My name is Wendy Basehore and I'm from Middletown, PA (Dauphin County). I have been involved in the sport of dogs for over 20 years. I consider myself to be a responsible person and capable of deciding what is best for my dogs. I have been an active member of our local volunteer-run training club for the past 20 years. I actively participate in the sport of dog obedience and agility, as an instructor and participant, and consider myself a hobby breeder. I strive to breed the best dogs I can by providing a safe, clean and secure home for my dogs. I temperment test my puppies. I support hip and eye certifications and only breed when I want a new puppy to train.

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. I believe that inhumane and substandard kennel conditions should not be tolerated, but I do not agree that most of the proposed regulatory changes are needed, or would necessarily have a beneficial outcome if adopted. Many are impractical, excessively burdensome and costly, unenforceable, and/or will not improve the quality of life for the dogs in these kennels.

The definition of "temporary housing" would require thousands of small residential hobby and show breeding households and training facilities to become licensed which could not possibly comply with the regulations, and which there is no reason to regulate.

Smaller breeders and dog owners who maintain their dogs in their own residential premises but are covered by the Pennsylvania dog law, who provide care and conditions far superior to those required by the proposed new standards, would be unable to comply with the rigid commercial kennel standards.

The above is far from a complete list of the deficiencies with the proposed regulations. I also associate myself with the more detailed comments on this proposal by the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs.

The Bureau has tacitly conceded that its current regulations have not been adequately enforced. If, after implementing its recently announced enhanced enforcement program, the Bureau finds it is still unable to prevent inhumane treatment of dogs because of specific deficiencies in the existing regulations, it should cite these specific deficiencies and propose changes based on them. The current proposal appears to be merely a laundry list of ideas for improving the environment for dogs that has no connection to specific instances in which the welfare of dogs could not be secured and no basis in science or accepted canine husbandry practices. I urge that this proposal be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

Wendy Basehore

Wendy Basehore
477 E Main St
Middletown, PA 17057

Cc: Hon. John D Payne
Hon. David Hickernell
Senator Jeffrey Piccola

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