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

February 6, 2007

FEB 26 RECD

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am writing to urge you to oppose the proposed new dog kennel and breeding regulations.

The new rules are being promoted by radical animal rights groups such as the Humane Society of the US (HSUS), ASPCA, and PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). They say they will "stop puppy mills" (the animal-rights derogatory term for commercial kennels) and "help pets."

Nothing could be farther from the truth!

Because the animal rights groups' true agenda is to prohibit animals and meat-eating in our society, they are deliberately misleading the public and our legislators.

How can anyone say that the current laws aren't working, when they haven't been given a chance? Don't punish law-abiding pet owners for the misdeeds of scofflaws – get out there and enforce the laws that are already on the books!

The proposed changes are punitive, vague, impractical, excessively burdensome and costly, and not based on accepted rules of animal husbandry. They will not stop abusive breeders or help dogs in substandard kennels, but they will definitely eliminate most of the reputable hobby breeders of Pennsylvania.

Most small-to-medium pet breeders would be immediately eliminated because licensing would define them as commercial and require a commercial building, neither of which is allowed in the residential zoning where most breeders live. Even if that was not a problem, very few hobby breeders make a profit or even break even, so they cannot afford the expensive facilities the regulations require. Most smaller breeders breed in their homes and would quit under the new law, because they believe (and this is pretty much universally acknowledged) that home-bred pets are the best and healthiest kind of pet.

Why are pet owners across the country concerned about this law? Animal rights proponents have a history of bringing similar laws to other states, one by one, using the passage of the first ones to fuel their momentum. Think about it – if this approach to law became common everywhere, what would be the effect on our society? By stopping small, reputable breeders out of proportion with larger commercial breeders, at first it would "merely" (and I say that ironically) encourage increases in commercial breeding (as opposed to in-home breeding) and smuggling over the border and the development of

an black market. Over time this would lead to reduction in the quality of pets, drastic increase in prices, reduction of individual breed gene pools to the point of extinction, and eventually the end of dog ownership except by the extremely rich. This is the reason this type of law is being pushed everywhere by animal rights organizations, whose true agenda is to outlaw animals and meat-eating in our society.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Bonnie Chandler*

Bonnie Chandler  
183 Prospect Hill Road  
Harvard, MA 01451  
978-456-3169  
jbchandler@verizon.net