Bender, Mary

From: Joe Sullivan [Joe.Sullivan@Airgas.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2007 5:42 PM

To: mabender@state.pa.us

Cc: dwolff@state.pa.us; eerickson@pasen.gov; tkillion@pahousegop.com

Subject: FW: 36 Pa.B. 7596

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am taking the liberty of copying your boss because, from what I can see, you are doing a terrific job and I think he would like to know that. I am also copying my elected representatives so they can know my feelings on these pending regulations. The Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs ("PFDC") opposes the proposed changes in the above captioned law. I read the proposed changes and the PFDC's objections to them. Below is an email that I wrote to the PFDC trying to understand their objections. I have not received a response from them.

You can see from my email to the PFDC that, on the whole, I find this an extremely thoughtful piece of legislation. It also seems to me that you have witnessed, either directly or indirectly through inspectors, some pretty horrid breeding practices. I applaud your steadfastness in working to address these problems. However, since large and small dogs ultimately wind up with the public and will interact at vet offices, dog parks, private homes, et cetera., I find it difficult to support a prohibition on interaction at breeders and kennels. Assuming the breeders or kennel owners are attentive and a students of canine behavior – perhaps a dubious assumption given my limited experience – large dog/small dog interaction would be more safely assessed in this environment than with the unsuspecting public.

I thought that you might like to hear some of the things that dog people are saying about this legislation but that I did not find when I read it.

"Puppies are not allowed to be raised in a home." I think this misinformation stems from the requirement that puppies of unknown origin be quarantined. The actual requirement makes sense to me.

"Dogs can't be raised on grass it has to be gravel or concrete." I think that this is the requirement that dogs be clean and not muddy. The actual requirement makes sense to me.

Other complaints about the law include:

"The law has requirements about the slope of the dog area." The law requires that the exercise area have adequate drainage without being a steep slope. Good Idea! What frightens me is what you or your inspectors must have seen that compelled you to introduce that into the legislation.

As I said at the outset, I think that you and your team have done a thorough, thoughtful and terrific job. You have my gratitude and support. Go get 'em girl!

Best regards,

Joe

Joe Sullivan 1245 Hunt Club Lane Media (Upper Providence), PA 19063-2033

Copied to:

Senate District

Senator

26

Edwin B. Erickson

House District

168

Representative Thomas H. Killion

2/7/2007