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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am a Pennsylvania dog breeder and have a licensed kennel. I am strongly opposed to the proposed changes.

My husband and I love our dogs and each and everyone is special to us. I have a grooming area where I bath, give haircuts, cut nails, etc. which I keep a log of. Our dogs are kept up on their shots, wormings and vet visits that I log on their individual cards. I keep an individual card on each kennel identifying the dogs in the kennel. All of our dogs are registered so I have breeding records, litter records and sales information to keep on each dog. As a Pennsylvania licensed kennel, I have an individual record on each dog to satisfy the State's requirements. As you can see, I am maxed out on paperwork

If you make changes where we have to log when we wash bowls, exercise our dogs, etc it is going to take away from the care of the dogs, as there would not be enough hours in the day to do everything. My husband and I spend hours upon hours taking care of our dogs and cleaning and I think we do a darn good job. It is just common sense that we make sure everything is kept clean and sanitation is a top priority. We have excellent references from our customers on our puppies.

Several breeders we know including us have other jobs besides their kennel. It takes more then one income to pay all of the bills and eat. We put a lot of money back in our business. We are currently building a new kennel building with block walls and concrete runs which has already cost us over \$12,000 in materials to be compliant with no wood.

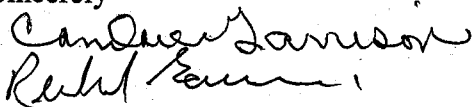
We spend hundreds of dollars every year for vet visits, medicines, shampoo, disinfectant, odor control, ID tags, microchips and the list goes on and on. If kennels shut down because there is too much paperwork, all of the businesses that we buy our products and services from will lose thousands of dollars of revenue. The State of Pennsylvania will lose thousands of dollars of sales tax and revenue from the sale of puppies. It is like a domino effect. Everyone is affected. The State would not need as many kennel inspectors and there would be lost jobs.

If kennels shut down because there is too much paperwork and the proposed changes, customers and pet stores will go out of State to get the puppies.

I ask that you not change the kennel regulations. Our State already has stiff regulations whereas other states have no regulations and require no kennel license. Why do we need more rules? I have a friend in North Carolina that could not believe it when I told her of the proposed changes in our State. She said "It is all I can do to keep my AKC paperwork up-to-date." Those individuals that do not have a kennel "do not understand" how much work it is to run a kennel and how many hours we spend cleaning and taking care of our dogs.

I understand that we need a State kennel license but I feel as a kennel owner that we need to have some control of taking care of our dogs and allow us time to enjoy our dogs.

Sincerely

Handwritten signatures of Candace and Richard Garrison in cursive script.

Candace and Richard Garrison
Maple Ridge Kennel
180 Holbert Stretch
Dilliner, PA 15327