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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

February 22, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender,

I have never written a letter like this before so I'm not sure what I should say, but I will start by saying that I had a very hard time finding any information regarding these proposals. Something this important should have had more coverage than it has because I think it is a serious issue.

My entire family has always been dog lover and these proposals have us all very upset. We all purchased our dogs only from good breeders after doing our homework on which breed is right for us. I must admit we were a bit taken back when we were "interviewed" at length by our first breeder. But the time spent telling her about our lifestyle and what we were looking for gave her a chance to match the right puppy in her litter with us. It was love at first sight and grows stronger every day.

I am so grateful we were able to locate this breeder and if she gave up breeding because of these regulations I would be devastated. But I would understand completely if she would refuse to compromise her standards to match the commercial breeders requirements that might not let her raise her dogs "in her home." I don't know how I can get the people who will make these decisions to understand the difference between caring breeders and big money making outfits that sell puppies to anyone even if they aren't the best people to own that breed. But this point is really important to families like us.

My sister told me that because of pressure from animal rights groups, the Governor is proposing to change the dog laws to put new restrictions on "puppy mills." But he is actually targeting all breeders, no matter how well they raise their dogs. So much so, many will probably do a lot less breeding. And this is supposed to help control conditions in PA puppy mills?

We all know that people that run puppy mills have poor values to begin with, so why would they care about more rules that they will probably find a way around. I'm sure that how we got to this point in the first place. The big breeders have continued to operate sub-standard even though there are enough laws to keep them operating better.

If there really is a problem with puppy mills, then go after the puppy mills and allow the good breeders like my family's breeder, to keep raising these wonderful dogs that bring my parents and me so much joy. I only hope my letter will make some difference.

Sincerely,

Linda Hutnick