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Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance  
P.O. Box 111  
Madison, Virginia 22727

March 13, 2007

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

Ref: Dog Law Enforcement Proposed Rulemaking of December 16, 2006

Dear Ms Bender:

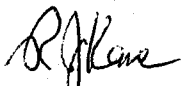
This statement is filed on behalf of the more than one thousand (1000) members of the Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance (SAOVA) residing in Pennsylvania. We are individual dog owners of largely hunting breeds. None of us is a federally licensed commercial breeder. These citizens most strongly object to the proposed dog kenneling regulations by your office published in the PA Bulletin at <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol36/36-50/2452.html> Contrary to your office's analysis, SAOVA finds these regulation revisions to be intrusive, extremely ill-considered, and so expensive as to be confiscatory. The majority of State licensed kennels can not comply with the shelter (space, ambient temperature, footing surface, drainage, etc.), exercise and record keeping requirements that you set out. They will be forced to close. You have proposed a rules revision that does great economic harm, destroys people's lives and doesn't improve animal welfare.

Other parties have already filled your docket with data and studies demonstrating the utter futility, inappropriateness and waste associated with this set of rules. Despite assertions attributing policy direction from the restructured Pennsylvania Dog Law Advisory Committee, key members of that group, across a wide spectrum of animal ownership and welfare interests, publicly and privately disclaim any responsibility for this document. You have an orphan rule without parents, a serious political problem and perhaps a legal one as well, if these changes are ultimately judged to be arbitrary and anti-competitive.

These rules can not be justified on any factual basis, except as an effort on the part of non-elected, unaccountable animal rightist bureaucrats intent on a private agenda of making animal ownership as costly and difficult as possible. SAOVA urges your office to vigorously enforce the state's current kennel regulations and to support the USDA inspection and identification of federally regulated commercial breeding facilities. Further, the Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission and General Assembly's Agriculture Committees should hold public hearings to determine the factual need for and impact of such regulation changes. This proposal appears to well exceed the statutory authority established by elected officials and it should be thoroughly reviewed and reevaluated.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Kane  
Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance

Cc: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission

PA Senate and House Agriculture Committees