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Dear Regulatory Commission members,,

I am writing to tell you that I support the changes to the commercial dog regulations submitted by the Coalition Against Misery. Unfortunately, I feel that the proposed regulations by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture that were recently published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin still do not adequately address the issues of temperature control, cage conditions and humane breeding practices.

Last year here, in Oregon, I made the mistake of purchasing a puppy which I later found out to come from a commercial breeding kennel. When I found out the conditions that these dogs live in, I was horrified. I feel that I have been personally violated by the knowledge that I now posse. I have watched in horror as the temperatures plunged this winter, knowing that the dogs in those kennels were freezing to death or suffering from frostbite that will probably go untreated.

As Americans, we have all grown up with images of the intelligence of dogs. Books such as "Lassie Come Home", "Old Yeller" and "Rin Tin Tin" as well as movies and TV shows such as "Benji" and "Eddie" the dog on "Frasier." are ingrained in our national psyche. Our news channels report on seeing eye dogs, therapy dogs, tracking dogs, police dogs, dogs who work our airports, even dogs who can be trained to detect cancer or to alert their master before an attack of epilepsy. These examples all attest to what all dog owners already know, that dogs are intelligent creatures with active minds and not just "livestock" as these breeders believe.

It is therefore my belief that it is a profound embarrassment to the people of Pennsylvania that these horrific conditions are allowed to exist and that their state should be known as the "puppy mill Capital of the East Coast." You have the ability to change that, to give dignity back to your state. You must put an end to the horrific conditions that exist in these commercial kennels. Until that happens I will keep my tourism dollars away and I will urge everyone I know to do the same.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Branda Pace
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"The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them. That's the essence of inhumanity." George Bernard Shaw.

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

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