WALTER HEALY

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NDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION

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2 Pages Via Facsimile to 717.783.2664

Independent Regulatory Review Commission Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Ladies:

I worked in Pennsylvania for five years as vice president and general counsel of UGI Corp. in King of Prussia. I developed a high regard for the Commonwealth and its citizens.

Imagine my surprise and embarrassment when I learned that Pennsylvania is known as the Puppy Mill Capital of the East Coast.

My wife and I have adopted two senior female Pomeranians who had been bred in puppy mills. They were in wretched shape with physical and psychological deformities. In each case, rescue groups gave them a year of intensive veterinary care and human hand house acclimation before they were ready to be adopted by us. Even then, we have paid for operations and other veterinary care to alleviate the problems caused by outrageous puppy mill practices.

All life, including those of dogs, cats and other pets, is precious! We treat our adopted Pomeranians as part of our family and are doing our small part to help them live their remaining years with human interaction, affection and comfort.

All puppy mills should be shut down. If that is too extreme a solution, I ask at a minimum that the changes to the commercial dog regulations submitted by the Coalition Against Misery be adopted. The proposed regulations by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture that were recently published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin do not adequately address the issues of temperature control, cage conditions and humane breeding practices.

I am strongly opposed to commercial breeding kennels where the costs are minimized by providing substandard care and conditions for the dogs in an effort to increase the profit. I am writing to request that you immediately take steps to address the horrific conditions in commercial kennels in Pennsylvania. Every kennel must be required to have a visible, safe source of heat and air-conditioning. Additionally, the regulations should limit the

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number of dogs that are kept in a cage. And finally, I ask that you include breeding regulations consistent with those established by reputable breed clubs.

I hope you will have the compassion and wisdom to implement the necessary corrective actions.

Sincerely yours, Walter F. X. Healy