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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dog Law Bureau Director, Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

I support the changes to the commercial dog regulations submitted by the Coalition Against Misery. 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 number of dogs that are kept in a cage. And finally, we ask that you include breeding regulations consistent with those established by reputable breed clubs.

It is a profound embarrassment that Pennsylvania is known as the Puppy Mill Capital of the East Coast. Please take steps to ensure that the new regulations provide humane conditions for the dogs.

These animals are bred to be "companions." They are not livestock and were never intended to be as such. They rely on us, forgive us and trust us. We treat them like trash.

Ignorance is not an excuse. Tolerance is not an excuse. There is NO excuse for this disgrace.

Stop catering to the breeding industry.

Thank you.

Stephen G. Kleinhenz
Allentown, Pennsylvania