

Distinguished Commisioners,

The purpose of my prescence today at this hearing is to strongly object to the new proposed regulations that undermine the purpose and intent of Act 119. With regard to wire flooring and outside access, Agriculture Secretary Redding has stated the reasons as follows: (1) wire flooring for sanitation and (2) denying outside access due to a danger to puppies. Both of those reasons given are absolute nonsense. Wire flooring, or hog flooring as it is commonly known, is made for animals with cloven hooves. I have yet to see any dog that has cloven hooves. The wire flooring causes extensive, painful, and unnecessary damage to the soft pads on their feet. This is why it was prohibited in Act 119. Governor Rendell's position on this is, and I quote, "No wire flooring means no wire flooring." If the breeders are too lazy or incompetent to keep the enclosures in a sanitary manner, on solid flooring as the law states, they have no business being a breeder in the first place; just as the Dept. of Agriculture has no business pimping the unscrupulous designs of the breeders.

As for denying outside access to puppies because they would be endangered, let me put it this way. In my 59 years on this earth, neither myself, or any other dog owner I have known, have ever seen a puppy harmed by fresh air, exercise, and sunshine. This reason is so ridiculous as to be transparent that the Agriculture Dept is pandering to breeders with no regard for the law. Although the individual regulations are not really the issue, I've shown them as an example of the obvious alliance between the breeders and Sue West, Jessie Smith, and the Dept of Ag. which has direct bearing on this hearing. The real issue is the Dept. of Ag. breaking the law on behalf of the breeders.

I have personally witnessed their coalition and disregard for the laws as stated in Act 119. On July 8th, there was an open conference call hosted by puppy mill lobbyist Michael Glass about the new proposed regulations. Jessie Smith was the guest speaker. I questioned Ms. Smith about the 81 waivers and exemptions which have been handed out to breeders like candy at Halloween, even though the breeders have had three years to comply with the law. I asked that in order to receive a waiver, do I need to submit a detailed report of why I need an exemption after all this time, proposed efforts to comply, and also what I have done to comply with the law since 2008? The answer Ms. Smith gave me was no - just that I should state I have to undergo "major reconstruction". So breeders are given

the right to break the law by Jessie Smith, Sue West, and the Dept. of Ag. with no justification whatsoever for doing so. At the conclusion of the call, Michael Glass labeled those who want the law to be complied with as "extremists".

The real issue of this hearing is the law and the fact that the Dep't of Agriculture has no authority to rewrite it. Under the law, the Canine Health Board has sole authority for writing regulations. How presumptuous and arrogant of the Dep't of Agriculture to be so willingly flagrant in their insubordinate behavior. The last thing this or any other state needs is self important bureaucrats being insolent enough to thumb their noses at the law. For the Commission to approve these changes would set a dangerous precedent that could have far reaching consequences with regard to any law passed by the PA General Assembly.

In closing, I would like to quote Nancy Gardner of the Dog Law Advisory Board. Unfortunately, Ms. Gardner could not be here today due to a prior engagement. She did authorize me to make this statement on her behalf: "We are not asking for a debate about the July 14th policy statement. That fight was won two years ago when the law was passed. We want the law to be enforced, period." I am confident that this Commission's commitment to the law is as strong as the Dep't of Agriculture's contempt for the same. Thank you for your time and kind attention.