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JENNIFER L. MANN
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

November 16, 2009

Jessie L. Smith, Esq.
Special Deputy Secretary of Dog Law Enforcements
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street, Room 210
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Smith:

As you know, the Pennsylvania Dog Law was amended with the passage of Act 119 of 2008, requiring the Canine Health Board to create regulations regarding the lighting, ventilation, and flooring requirements for commercial dog kennels. I was proud to support this legislation when it passed overwhelmingly in the House of Representatives.

The Canine Health Board has proposed the required regulations, with the goal of promoting ethical treatment of animals and consumer protection, as well as not placing financial burdens on local government. I believe the facets of each regulation accomplish each of these goals. The standards will improve the conditions under which dogs are housed and raised, allowing for healthier animals and more suitable environments. By promoting healthier animals, consumers will also be better protected, by ensuring healthier pets from the time of purchase.

Local governments will not experience any change in costs – compliance with the proposed standards will be enforced solely by the Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement. Enforcement at the state level will not be supported by tax dollars, but by the Dog Law Restricted Account, which is funded mostly by license fees.

As a State Representative, I understand the need for the regulations proposed by the Canine Health Board, and remain a strong supporter for the ethical, moral, and humane treatment of dogs in commercial kennels. I support these regulations and look forward to their implementation within the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Mann
State Representative
132nd Legislative District

