

Good afternoon members of the ACF Joint Committee. My name is Joe Drazek, Woodland.

I am speaking in **Opposition** to LD 1771 as written because it does not go far enough in strengthening oversight of Kennels. While the bill's intention to streamline State licensure to the Department is an attempt to organize some administrative process, it is missing a major component of what about a month ago was called a "struck nerve" in failing to address barking dogs from at least commercial operations such as breeding kennels. I assure you this topic is germane to the conversation. Representative Frost in the work session for LD 133 which was unfunnily called Noisy Dogs, and later, "euthanized" asked Director Steciuk what could be done for people who were faced with neighbor disputes due to allowed, sustained dog barking and the only answer was Civil action. So, because there was no law, statute, or guidance from the State, the answer that exists is in some cases, years-long battles between neighbors ultimately going to court. That is unacceptable. It was later stated that she didn't have a solution, nor did this committee and it was voted ONTP. This is a serious issue, and no joking matter for those it affects - the solution has been right in front of you all the whole time. Create a commercial kennel noise restriction. **If committees can create a 60+ page book on how to fish in inland waters, you can create a sentence about kennel owners having to be reasonable and good neighbors and control noise levels emitted beyond their property lines.** **Reversing** my stance to being in favor of this bill could be achieved by the addition of an amendment, or regulation being added that undue, uncontrolled, excessive, prolonged, unreasonable barking, howling or yelping by a kennel would result in potential fine, suspension, revocation or a number of complaints resulting in a possible non-renewal. Many of the kennels in the state are in the majority of being good neighbors. This suggestion would give ACO's, Humane Agents and additional law officials / agencies the ability to finally make way in settling some of these problems. A concern of the Department was lack of resources and continued visits to certain locations. Well, if you had something that was enforceable, you would see a downturn in visits to repeat areas once violations began to be issued. Also, just the fact that resources have been going to areas of concern for multiple years seems to indicate a clear problem. I am not against kennels, dogs, or animals. I am against the irresponsible owners and the bad neighbors some become and the bad name they create for the majority of good ones, as I mentioned. This suggestion is not directed at all dog owners this way, it is specific to commercial operation, a business- which would naturally tend to have a noise **concern**. It also greatly assists the unorganized territories and the many municipalities without ordinances. If the State is now solely issuing the license, they would truly have the direct oversight the bill suggests and not just be the recipient of \$200/yr to legally allow disruption and destroy the long quiet communities state-wide who don't have ordinances or zoning to support these State issued kennels to just drop next to them at will. This is the opportunity to finally address this barking issue. Finally, there is no representative on the Governor's AWAC to represent "irresponsible dog" owners. But they are certainly the most "heard" and unregulated statewide. Wouldn't it be amazing to be able to do something about that? In closing, you don't have to be a noisy neighbor, or have a kennel, those are choices not rights, but people, residents- should have the right to peace and quiet in their own home and property and as it is the State who is issuing the license, they should have the power to administer any conditions which go along with it. **We all have to drive the speed limit, or risk getting pulled over, no? My driver's license just doesn't give me unlimited rights, neither should a breeding Kennel license when it comes to noise.** Thank you.

I would be honored to take any questions and will be submitting this testimony this afternoon.