

December 7, 2021 – *via email transmission to Committee staff*

Dear Ms. Golden -

As a resident and horse owner in Chester County, PA I am writing to voice my opposition to the existing Act 43 of 2017 fireworks law. Please consider this testimony for your December 10, 2021 hearing on this topic.

Like many horse and livestock owners, I consider the current fireworks law an unmitigated disaster as far as farm animals are concerned. The last few years have seen a huge escalation in the use of heavy-grade fireworks in this area, with displays going off in all directions for hours on July 4, plus other random events and celebrations. The percussive BOOM BOOM BOOM goes well beyond traditional fireworks sounds and is acutely stressful for horses and another large animals. A neighbor and I spent hours last July 4 in the barn trying to calm our terrified animals. Even vet-provided sedatives barely helped. I have heard many fellow equestrians and rural folk share the same stories.

I am not opposed to the old-fashioned "snap, crackle and pop" fireworks we all grew up with. But these heavy-grade explosives for sale at roadside stands are simply too dangerous and intrusive in rural and agricultural areas. Anything you can do to help mitigate the current law will be much appreciated!

Thanks,  
Kathyn M McGrail  
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