

December 10, 2021 – *via email transmission to Committee staff*

As the executive director of the Agricultural Committee, I am hoping that you have the best interests of those of us with horses and other livestock in mind.

I have a small horse farm in Wallace Township, Chester County, and have had horses at home since 1978, so I have lived the before and after of this terribly thought out law, which was inappropriately tacked into the spending bill without a comment period.

The proliferation of fireworks around me has quite literally made me a prisoner on my property EVERY SINGLE NIGHT all summer long and on many other nights where I have to guess if it's likely to happen or not, as well as New Years and other random holidays.

Before the law, in the warm weather I would turn my horses out at about 7 at night and feel free to leave my property for dinner or go to the store. Now I am forced to keep them until every night until I "think" it's late enough for none to go off. For example I thought at 7:30 on a random Monday night was safe but no...mortars at 9 again.

I have nice horses which are investments and for show. I can't allow them to be injured by running and panicking from the fear induced by these inconsiderate neighbors around me (who don't have the requisite setbacks but the enforcement provisions and fines are so weak that there's almost nothing I can get accomplished as police support).

Let's talk about the monetary cost to me and others. I have to use more bedding, feed more hay, pay to dispose of more manure and spend more on labor to clean it up. I'm stuck doing stalls at 10 pm and not earlier at 7 which is also a negative impact.

And there are safety concerns for me if I'm in the stall or near them and it goes off or when I have to catch them in a panic.

So I feel trapped having to be home, with my horses locked in longer, night after night, unable to leave in case they get panicked, all so that some selfish person can impact everyone in a large radius with their mortars.

It's simply not right. There is no reason for this law to exist as written.

See the attached video of my horse, in July, in a stall AFTER I had to inject him with tranquilizers. Again this is not right - PA is an agricultural state. We expect you to protect us and our livelihoods and hobbies with these animals.

Feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Sara Shute

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