

October 8, 2007

To Ohio State Representatives,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Ohio Professional Dog Breeders Association concerning House Bill 223. We, as an Association, would ask you to vote No on HB223.

The Breeders Association has been educating and helping dog breeders to do a better job for over three years. We hold seminars, bringing in speakers from all the country, as well as introducing new products and vendors to the members. We work with, and promote, USDA as well as work hand -in-hand with our local Dog Warden.

The Ohio Breeders are producing a superior puppy. We have buyers coming to us from the Midwest states and the East coast. If we were not doing a good job, these buyers would not come this far to purchase our puppies.

This is a family based business where young people can work together as a family and make a nice income without owning a hundred or more acres.

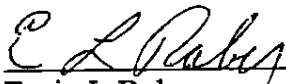
If HB223 passes it will be next to impossible for most of these people to continue in this industry. It will be easier to buy a gun in Ohio than to obtain a Dog Breeders License. The economic impact will be huge if this bill is passed.

In Holmes County alone this industry brings in over 9 million dollars a year, not to mention the surrounding counties and the rest of the state.

There have been studies done in Missouri several years ago concerning the economic impact of this industry. They found that the funds brought in to the area by the breeders circulated 7 times before leaving there. This means 7 times 9 million dollars are available for paying taxes, etc. in just one county alone.

Again, we are asking for your support in voting NO on HB223.

Thank you for your consideration,



Ervin L Raber

President, Ohio Professional Dog Breeders Association

October 8, 2007

An open letter to members of the Ohio House of Representatives
SUBJECT: Ohio House Bill 223

Dear Representative,

Amish Helping Fund is a non profit organization within the State of Ohio and legal within the statues of State law that govern such entities. It advises and helps young Amish couples in building and/or buying homes.

Assets of the Fund is money invested in the Fund, by mostly older people within the community, but also by some of the younger people who do not yet own a home.

These assets are then put out as loans to young married families who meet the required financial criteria to qualify for a loan.

Many of these young families have small kennels from which they sell puppies as a supplement to their income. Also it could be added that many young Amish children, as they tag along with their parents greatly enjoy playing with these puppies.

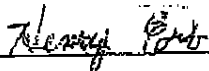
Income from these small kennels is essential to the financial success of these young families. Income from these kennels has been used to meet the required percent needed to quality for a loan.

Therefore, changing the current law in Ohio to what is proposed within House Bill 223 will in some cases restrict income that is needed to be able to meet their required monthly payments.

Therefore we humbly ask that you, on behave of our community, vote NO on house bill 223

Sincerely,

The board



Henry Erb - Vice president



HOLMES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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October 9, 2007

An Open Letter to the Members of the Ohio House of Representatives:

Subject – Ohio House Bill 223

Dear Representatives:

Ever since the Amish people came into existence in Europe, farming, animal husbandry and operating small businesses has been their way of life. For many years, the people of Holmes County and largely the Amish Community of Holmes County have been breeding and selling dogs.

Over the years more and more kennels were opened up, till about 2004 approximately 400 – 450 kennels were operating within the County.

At this time, a group of individuals became aware that Holmes County was a major producer of puppies for a fast growing pet market.

The County Commissioners started getting phone calls and letters from these individuals and possibly others complaining of the horrible conditions of these kennels. Dogs that are malformed, sick, diseased, sitting in the same dirty cages all day, covered in their own feces and urine, fleas, matted hair, no food and water, plus these dogs were being horribly, physically abused by their care givers.

The County Commissioners put the County Dog Warden and his Deputies on alert and ordered that they re-check all kennels.

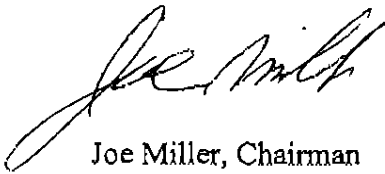
The Dog Warden found no evidence of any abused dogs, but did find a couple of kennels who were not doing the best job in cleanliness. After this visit from the Dog Warden and with their advice and recommendations of the Ohio Dog Breeders Association these kennels were very soon brought into compliance.

It appears, that these individuals are trying to do everything that they can to try and stop these kennels from operating to the point of feeding the media blatant lies, misrepresentation and accusations. These emotions were designed to stir the emotions of the general public, which has no idea that there were being misled by these individuals.

We, the Commissioners of Holmes County feel that our Dog Warden and his Deputies are doing their job in keeping these kennels checked and operating within the codes of the Ohio Laws.

Therefore, we ask that our House of Representatives vote NO on House Bill 223.

Sincerely,



Joe Miller, Chairman



Ray Feikert, Vice-Chairman



David Hall, Holmes County Commissioner