

KERRY A. BENNINGHOFF
MEMBER 171ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

ROOM 41B EAST WING
PO BOX 202171
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2171
PHONE: (717) 783-1918
FAX: (717) 280-6528

209 S. ALLEGHENY STREET
SUITE B
BELLEFONTE, PA 16823
PHONE: (814) 355-1300
FAX: (814) 355-3523

77 N. MAIN STREET
PO BOX 592
REEDSVILLE, PA 17084
PHONE: (717) 667-2319
FAX: (717) 667-6025



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
REPUBLICAN CHAIRMAN
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
POLICY COMMITTEE
REPUBLICAN INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE

RURAL HEALTH CAUCUS - CHAIRMAN

kbenning@pahousegop.com
www.kerrybenninghoff.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Kerry Benninghoff
171st Legislative District

SUBJECT: Dog Law – Right to Carry

DATE: January 27, 2011

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation to make it legal for dog wardens to carry firearms. In 2008, the General Assembly extensively amended the Dog Law (Act 225 of 1982) and while most of the provisions related to regulating newly-designated “commercial kennels,” an important aspect of enforcement power was also removed. Our Secretary of Agriculture used to have the discretion to authorize properly trained dog wardens to carry firearms. At this time, a dog warden may not carry, use or possess a firearm in the performance of his or her duties.

I plan to introduce legislation to restore this authority to the Secretary of Agriculture. Dog wardens would have to have both proper certification and training in the use of firearms and the approval of the secretary to use a firearm in the performance of his or her duties. Dog wardens are law enforcement officers and may encounter situations where a firearm is the best and safest means of protection.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation please contact Amy anoel@pahousegop.com or call 717-783-1918.