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Hello, my name is Bob Kellner and I am the President of Kellner's Fireworks Inc. of Irwin Township, Venango County Pa. I am on the Board of Directors of the National Fireworks Association and the Pennsylvania Pyrotechnics Association. I'm also a past Director of the American Pyrotechnics Association.

First, I'd like to thank the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee for this opportunity to speak to you.

My company was founded by my parents over seventy years ago in Oil City. Today, we are Pennsylvania's largest distributor of Consumer Fireworks, Professional Display Fireworks and Proximate Pyrotechnics. Even so, we are still a small family run company that my wife, daughters and even my 97-year-old mother are active in.

Now my family has been here in Pennsylvania for a long time. In fact, two of my 10th great-grandfathers came from Sweden to what would become Pennsylvania in 1640 and both were used as interpreters for negotiations between William Penn and the Indians.

Fireworks have been part of Pennsylvania almost as long as my family. In fact, it was from Philadelphia that John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail, stating that our Independence Day ought to be celebrated with "Pomp and Parade... Bonfires and Illuminations... from one end of this Continent to the other, from this time forward, forever more".

When my father got into the Fireworks business in 1947, Pennsylvania was the largest producer of Fireworks in the World. Keystone Fireworks of Dunbar, Fayette County, Pa had 250 full time employees making both Profession and Backyard Fireworks. Pennsylvania was full of family run Fireworks factories. Today, those factories are virtually all gone, but the love of Fireworks, both watching and using, still is strong within the citizens of the Commonwealth.

When the Fireworks Law changed in 2017, I gave dozens of seminars on the changes, throughout western Pa to government officials, fire departments, police departments, bomb squads, arson investigators and anyone else that was interested. The surprising feedback that I got was "it's about time we can legally celebrate the 4th of July with Fireworks in Pa".

There were concerns expressed about when and what time of day these celebrations could occur and, in fact, I had these same concerns. I believe House Bill 1687 goes a

long way towards alleviating these concerns and hopefully, Pennsylvania's residents can use the Fireworks that they love, safely, forever more.

Thank you.