

September 19, 2019

Fireworks Hearing Testimony

Attention Committee Chair Causer

I am writing to request your consideration of tightening the Fireworks Amendment bill HR 1687 from its current state into something with yet more teeth than the amendment provides. I would like to state that I would prefer a complete BAN on the consumer fireworks due to the serious and ongoing impact on me and others like me with horses.

I live on Little Conestoga Road, Glenmoore, PA, with a small horse farm with 3 horses. I have been literally surrounded all summer with people shooting fireworks off.

The impact on me is two-fold – the danger it poses to my horses (physical injury, fear, panic, colic, etc) and secondly the danger to me as I have to remain on-guard every night so that I can protect my horses, and I have to try to catch them when they are running and I am forced to wait up and not leave the property in case it starts. During the time frame around July 4th, I had to stay in place, with the horses stuck inside until usually after 11 PM every night to TRY for it to be safe to let them out in their fields. If they were out and it started, I had to risk getting hurt, while they ran in a panic, while I tried to get them in. If they were in, I had shut windows and doors and crank the fans on to try and drown in out (even on hot nights) and then had to give tranquilizers to one horse when the people on the Andrew Drive cul-de-sac shot huge mortars off for THREE HOURS straight on July 5th. Others would be at unknown times, and durations. It's exhausting and honestly, totally unfair that I should have to deal with this.

It meant I could not leave my property virtually all summer in the evenings. Especially on Friday and Saturday nights as I had to ensure for their safety. All of these properties were likely in violation of the 150 set-back, but they didn't care and the police would not enforce the law and said "it was legal" which it wasn't. The map below shows the homes circled which chose to set them off, so you can see how I was surrounded.

It was like I developed a sort of PTSD – waiting night after for it to start. Then I would have to deal with the aftermath every time. It also costs me actual money as I had to keep them in an use up more bedding (shavings) and more hay and the associated extra labor of them being in the stalls longer.

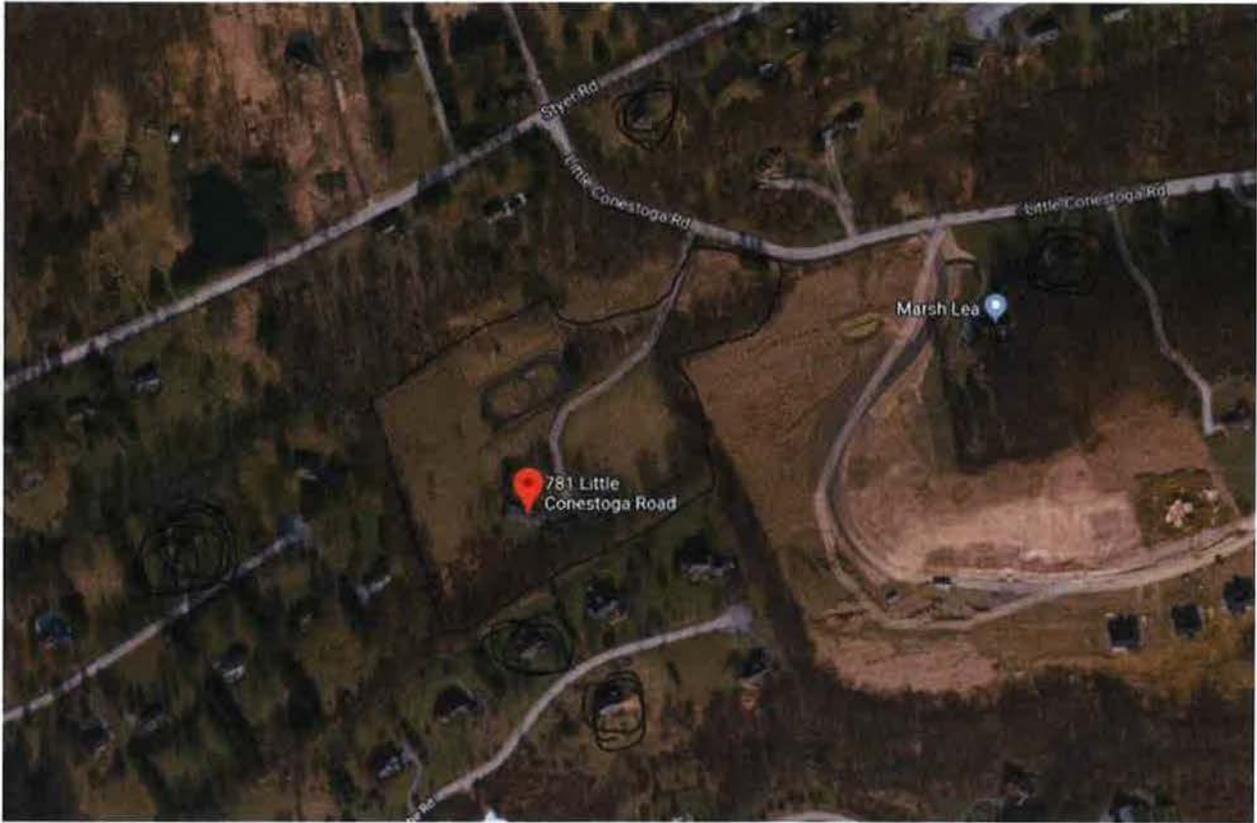
There is nothing positive in the existing bill or the revision for me. Nothing. The revised setback is slightly better, the fine is a hair better, but allowing until ONE AM on certain nights is completely off-base. All so that some selfish person can get a momentary thrill while negatively impacting the ENTIRE neighborhood.

Please consider a total ban on consumer fireworks. At the very least – please raise the fine considerably higher, the set-back should be 1,000 feet from a structure (not just a dwelling), the time allowed (if ever) should be like July 4th and Dec 31st only and from 9-9:30 maximum. At least I could plan for that.

Otherwise I NEVER KNOW when it is going to happen and it is ALWAYS a very bad event. ALWAYS.

I am completely tired of it and I am furious that the PA legislators pushed this through previously.

Sara Shute
215-778-5979
781 Little Conestoga Road
Glenmoore, PA 19343



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