

December 6, 2021 – *via email transmission to Committee staff*

Julian Kern

252 E. Walnut St. Apt. 2RR

Allentown, PA 18109

Re: AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS (H) and AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS (S)

Joint public hearing on the focus of Fireworks Laws.

The following is a letter I am submitting for public testimony for the joint public hearing on the focus of fireworks laws on December, 15th, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

I reside in Allentown, PA and we have a huge issue with residents shooting off fireworks all hours of the day and night throughout the summer. I have witnessed fireworks hit trees, vehicles, and homes. There has been numerous fires, injuries, and death due to the consumer use of fireworks.

Not only are fireworks a safety concern in dense neighborhoods but they also pollute the environment. People also litter the neighborhoods with the fireworks.

Fireworks frighten pets that are sensitive to loud noises, flashing lights, and strong smells. Many dogs get scared and run away because of the use of fireworks in the city. Fireworks are also a trigger of PTSD in veterans.

Children with autism are also affected due to sensitivity to sounds, touch, and smells. I have two children with autism and they don't understand why we have fireworks being set off all hours of the night while they are trying to sleep.

Fireworks are a quality of life issue that we deal with every year. We have to be awakened in the middle of the night by the loud explosions. Fireworks have no place in our dense cities.

Fireworks also affect wildlife. The hearing of many animals is much more sensitive than it is to humans. There is also a risk of indigestion of residue of fireworks.

Last year my neighbors were shooting off fireworks and two exploded on the ground. One of the fireworks hit my vehicle and then hit me. This year fireworks landed on vehicles in the neighborhood.

We are tired of dealing with fireworks every year that makes our neighborhoods sound like warzones. I started a petition this year regarding fireworks and over 16,000 Pennsylvania residents have signed the petition. It is time to fix the laws regarding fireworks and improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvania residents.

I am attaching links to videos of firework incidents and news articles pertaining to fireworks in our communities.

[https://youtube.com/shorts/5R\\_T\\_chDgxY?feature=share](https://youtube.com/shorts/5R_T_chDgxY?feature=share)

<https://pcf fireworks.weebly.com/blog/pennsylvania-firework-related-news>