

Thursday, September 19, 2019
HOUSE BILL No. 1687

Hello,

I live in Coatesville, PA and am a registered voter. I have also served as an elected official at the local level. I'm writing to provide my testimony as work precludes me from attending the public hearing.

I grew up in Elkton, MD at a time there was a fireworks company in the town. I have seen too many children (and adults) wounded or crippled by fireworks. They are dangerous, disruptive, and in the face of climate change, reckless and short sighted. Yes, they are also beautiful, they are iconic for celebrations like 4th of July and New Years Eve - and professional displays are wonderful ways to bring communities together. However, not everyone can abide them.

I personally have PTSD and the randomness of them is incredibly disturbing to me. I have dogs - and the same thing, the randomness is disturbing and causes them to be truly terrorized. I have a neighbor with an autistic child - also terrorized by them. You may think - then don't attend. I live in a valley. The fireworks my municipality sets off reverberate along the walls of the valley in such a way that I cannot escape it without leaving my home and township. I have neighbors who will obtain them and then set them off for days leading up to and following ever increasing numbers of holidays. And the police don't care. It's little more than a nuisance call to most police departments and if they do come, it causes strife among neighbors at a time in American history when we need to come together, not divide.

I would like to see tighter controls on non-professional displays. And in an ideal world - I would like to see legislation that mandates the purchase of carbon offsets based on the number of fireworks utilized in any given public display.

Thank you .

Karl Marking
844 Stirling St
Coatesville, PA 19320