

Dear Senator Smith,

**TELL WHO YOU ARE AND WHERE YOU LIVE:** I am one of your constituents and live at 123 Happy Valley Road in Happyville, PA. I run a small horse farm and employ 1 full time and 2 part time workers. I also patronize local feed shops, farriers and veterinarians.

**TELL WHY YOU ARE WRITING AND CITE ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSED BILL OR PROBLEM THAT CONCERNS YOU:** I am writing you today about House Bill #123, which would outlaw any vehicle on state roads that travels at less than 20 mph and imposes a fine of up to \$300 for violations of this rule.

**GIVE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON WHY YOU HOPE THEY WILL SUPPORT OR NOT SUPPORT THIS ISSUE AND WHY:** Perhaps there was no consideration given to farm vehicles in the drafting of this regulation? I have been raising horses at my 32 acre farm for 17 years. One of the ways I am able to keep them well-nourished and keep the bills paid on my farm is to grow hay on 20 acres that is ¼ mile from my main farm on Side Street.

After the hay is cut and baled, I drive it, via tractor and wagon, to my main farm to store for the year. My tractor, pulling a fully loaded hay wagon, cannot go faster than 12 miles an hour. I also have no other way to get the hay to my main farm. I certainly do not want to break the law, but it is necessary for me to get the hay to the farm in order to sustain my farming operation.

**ASK FOR ACTION BY THE OFFICIAL:** I recognize the need to regulate safety on the roads and certainly understand that a slow moving vehicle presents dangers on some roads. I hope that some consideration can be given to farm vehicles that drive a short distance on public roads for a very limited distance. I would not object to some sort of warning device, like a blinker, on my hay wagon to warn drivers.

**OFFER FOLLOWUP ASSISTANCE/COMPROMISE IF NEEDED:** I would be happy to speak with you or an aide in more detail about this issue. I can also gather some of my neighbors, who also have occasional need to drive a slow moving farm vehicle on public roads, to discuss the issue with your staff. I think we can find a way to recognize the safety concerns of a slow moving vehicle while also helping our farmers maintain a viable operation. I can be reached at phone number and email.

**THANK THEM:** Thank you for your service to our district. I realize it is often a very hard job and I appreciate your efforts to serve the people of our county.

Yours truly,

Hank and Helen Horse Farmers