

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

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Bolivar, PA 15923

Southwest Region
(724) 238-9523

Dear Pennsylvania Sportsmen,

I am writing this letter asking for your support of PA Senate Bill 1166 that would enable the Pennsylvania Game Commission to set fees for hunting and furtaker licenses. The cost of a Pennsylvania hunting license has not increased since 1999.

SB 1166 was introduced in March, 2016 and was unanimously passed by the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee. The bill needs to pass by majority votes in the Senate and House of Representatives.

Some might ask why there is a need for a hunting license increase and point to agency revenue from timber operations and gas leases on state game lands. Although these revenue sources have been a significant reason that the agency has been able to sustain operations over the last seventeen years without increased license fees, these markets are subject to fluctuation and unreliable. Inadequate funding for wildlife conservation means less can be accomplished for Pennsylvanian's and wildlife.

The agency has tightened its belt by eliminating some educational programs, reducing habitat improvement operations, and cutting staff positions until adequate funding is available.

How can you help? Allowing the PA Game Commission Board of Commissioners the ability to set license fees through the regulatory process would avoid the large increases that were experienced in the past. The Board of Commissioners could deal with the subject of license fees on an as-needed basis.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has a vested interest in keeping fees at an acceptable level for the hunting public. Like any business model, it would be counterproductive for our agency to overcharge our customer base as license fees are our primary source of funding. In addition to funding wildlife conservation, hunters and trappers are the primary tool we use to manage many wildlife species, and we rely on you and all sportsmen and women to accomplish our agency's mission.

Consider lending your support, not only as an organization but as an individual, by contacting your elected state representatives in both the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives. Use the link below to find your local representative: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/index.cfm>

Thank you in advance for taking this positive step forward to insure adequate funding for your wildlife management agency.

Yours in Conservation,

Thomas A. Fazi

SW Information & Education Supervisor