

PENNSYLVANIA NEEDS TO PASS HB 1483

HB 1483 will generate \$92 million per year in new tax revenue.

Pennsylvania is now ranked #1 as the worst hunting state in the nation. Quoting WideOpenSpaces:

“Truth be told, you could probably hunt with a hand grenade and still strike out in one of these 8 worst states. A lot of states are doing things right when it comes to deer and deer hunting. However, a few states are on a stark downward trend. Good old Penn is the unanimous winner as the worst state to not only bowhunt, but just really hunt in general. To make matters worse, CWD is spreading.”

Please keep in mind that for decades prior to PGC’s deer and wildlife management policy changes in 2000, Pennsylvania had traditionally been ranked as one of the top two deer-hunting states in the nation.

House Bill 1483 has been designed to correct the greatest conservation mistake in the over-one-hundred-year history of the Game Commission. It will assist the Commission in returning to its legislated Title 34 mission, and will provide the Legislature with the advisory services and scientific tools that are necessary to oversee the Commission and hold it accountable.

HB 1483 is the most significant conservation bill in generations, and will benefit wildlife resources, sport hunting, rural communities, the multi-billion-dollar outdoor industry, the Commonwealth’s economy, and the outdoor recreation interests of millions of Pennsylvania citizens. HB 1483 will:

1. Dramatically increase the statewide deer herd while improving the health of the forest ecosystem.
2. Greatly enhance wildlife habitat over the 6,000 square-mile system of public forestlands.
3. Significantly increase 60-100 other wildlife populations – from grouse, wild turkeys, songbirds, and bats to honeybees and Monarch butterflies.
4. Return 300,000 hunters who have quit because of the lack of deer.
5. Reinvigorate rural economies by \$500 million per year, and up to \$1.2 billion annually within 10 years.
6. Generate \$92 million per year in new tax revenue -- \$58 million in state tax revenue that is being annually lost because of failed Game Commission policies, and \$35 million in local tax revenues.
7. Generate over \$8 million annually for the Game Commission from increased hunting-license sales, and \$25-57 million per year from timber sales – eliminating the need for a Commission license-fee increase.
8. Generate \$42-97 million per year for DCNR from increased timber sales.
9. Provide the Governor and General Assembly with the scientific advisory services that are needed to oversee the Commission and hold the agency accountable to sportsmen, citizens, and its Title 34 mission.
10. Distribute millions of American chestnut trees throughout 26,000 square miles of the state’s forests.
11. Stop and reverse the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD), and correct PGC’ current failed policies that are encouraging the infection rate and spread of CWD – threatening both deer and elk herds.