



Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

2426 North Second St. • Harrisburg, PA 17110

Phone: 717-232-3480 • Fax: 717-231-3524

info@pfsc.org • www.pfsc.org

Providing leadership and advocacy for the enhancement of our fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of all hunters, trappers, anglers and conservationists. Protecting our 2nd Amendment Rights.

House Game & Fisheries Committee Hearing on Legislation to Increase License Fees/Set Own Fees April 7, 2016

Chairman Gillespie, Chairman Harhai, Members of the Committee:

The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs (PFSC), the largest and oldest organization of hunters, anglers, trappers, conservationists and second amendment advocates, was founded in 1932 by conservation legends of this state. The PFSC represents the interest of Pennsylvania's sportsmen and sportswomen, and works with the commonwealth's resource agencies that are charged with managing wildlife, waterways, fish, game and related conservation matters. PFSC's membership of clubs, individuals and statewide organizations represents over 70,000 sportsmen and women.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide testimony regarding legislative proposals to increase license fees and/or allow the Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission to set their own fees relative to hunting, trapping fishing and boating.

Historically, the PFSC has been supportive of license fee increases. This is due to several factors. First, Federation members understand the agencies do not receive General Fund revenue and a large portion of their operating budgets comes from license fees. Second, the mission of these agencies is very important to our members' activities and interests. Without the necessary revenue, crucial programs, field personnel and staff would need to be cut. Finally, we recognize the agencies have received legislative approval for license fee increases at sporadic intervals, spanning lengthy periods of time, often long beyond planned budget time frames, making it difficult for them to make long-term plans or fulfill their strategic plans.

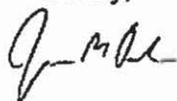
Both the Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission have demonstrated compelling cases to our members justifying a dire need for increased funding. After discussing these proposals with our delegates and officers, this letter is to advise you and your committee members the **PFSC supports the efforts to increase license fees for both agencies, and we support going one step farther and allowing the agencies to have the authority to set their own fees.**

We feel this is absolutely necessary and appropriate so our resource agencies are able to maintain sound fiscal management practices that fulfill their missions. Both Commissions submit annual reports to the Senate and House Game & Fisheries Committees, and are subject to periodic audits by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, so there will still be adequate legislative oversight.

We do not agree with the comments from the naysayers about the agencies becoming greedy and over pricing licenses. Both agencies understand doing so would do more harm than good, and essentially price themselves out of business. While we understand and support the "sunset" provision in the legislation, we would recommend it be extended to five years. We do not feel three years will provide adequate evaluation data.

We appreciate the ability to have input during this process. Please contact John Kline, our Director of Government Affairs, if you have any additional questions as these proposals work their way through the legislative process. We stand ready to play an active role in helping to advance this most important issue expediently.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Ord".

John Ord, President

cc: Senate Game & Fisheries Committee Members
Executive Director John Arway, PFBC
Executive Director Matt Hough, PGC