

Thank you, Chairman Staback, Chairman Dally and members of the Committee.

My name is Jeff Haste, and I'm the chairman of the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, and a former member of the House of Representatives and this committee. Also, I am a lifelong hunter and angler, and I raised money for college by running a trap line as a young man.

Combining all of that background and experience, I have a very simple message for you today: now is the time to allow hunters the option of purchasing antlerless deer licenses online through the Pennsylvania Automated License System (PALS). To explain how I came to this position, allow me to expand on my working knowledge of the present license sales system as it relates to the Dauphin County budget, my views as a public servant, and my personal experiences as a license buying hunter.

First, as a county commissioner, it is my understanding that the county treasurer's office retains the one dollar issuing agent fee for each antlerless deer license it processes. This year, the first year in which county treasurers were permitted to sell antlerless deer licenses for any Wildlife Management Unit, the county will realize about \$13,417.00 in revenues from antlerless license sales. We expend approximately \$12,000 on labor costs and an additional amount on office supplies. The number of license applications is an unknown from year to year and could greatly increase or decrease in subsequent years. This makes the process of budgeting and staffing somewhat difficult.

Second, as a former member of the House, I realize that the Legislature is the only entity that can change the law as it relates to the agencies or offices that may issue antlerless deer licenses. With the widespread availability and common use of advanced technology, limiting the sale of doe licenses solely through county treasurers is, at best, antiquated. In this age of computerization, there are, in fact, very few purchases that cannot be made online and fewer still that require an application to be sent through the mail to transact the sale. The inherent nature of mail processing itself eliminates any semblance of first-come, first-serve that online purchasing affords. PALS has finally brought the Game Commission's licensing process into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and created an efficient and streamlined system that that could allow hunters to purchase a license online OR through their county treasurer, as they prefer. Innovation requires change and change is not always embraced by all parties involved in a process. Nonetheless, our first priority is and always should be how to best serve our customer, the taxpaying public, and more specifically in this case, the license-buying hunter.

Lastly, as a hunter, I personally have experienced the frustration and inconvenience of having my antlerless deer license application lost in the mail. I also have experienced the confusion that results from not knowing whether I've been issued an antlerless deer license, whether my application was processed in time to receive an antlerless license for the Wildlife Management Unit that I would like to hunt in, or if the license will be mailed back to me in time for the opening day of archery deer season. Again, PALS can and will eliminate all of this.

By enabling any issuing agent to sell antlerless deer licenses, as a hunter, I could purchase my general hunting license, including my antlerless deer license, and walk out of the issuing agent knowing that I have the antlerless deer license issued for the Wildlife Management Unit I wanted

to hunt in, or for the Wildlife Management Unit that was available at the time I purchased it, and it would be in my possession. I would no longer have to worry about having my application lost in the mail. Furthermore, such a process would eliminate the burden among treasurers to race the clock in issuing their constituents a license in the WMU of their choice before it is sold out.

Since I am fortunate enough to work in the Dauphin County Courthouse, I may very well likely choose to purchase my licenses in the Dauphin County treasurer's office. It would be convenient for me and would keep that one dollar issuing agent fee in the Dauphin County coffers.

For some of my friends who hunt, traveling to downtown Harrisburg and finding a parking space may not be the most convenient choice, especially since county treasurers generally are only open Monday through Friday during normal working hours. If we allowed all issuing agents to sell antlerless deer licenses, think about how convenient and customer-friendly that would be.

So again, I say, now is the time to allow hunters the option of purchasing their antlerless deer licenses online through the Pennsylvania Automated License System (PALS). It completes the transition to a more user-friendly, customer-convenient method of issuing hunting licenses.

Thank you.