

Joseph D. Glover, ACF, CF
Pennsylvania Chapter
Association of Consulting Foresters
19943 Route 322
Strattanville, PA 16258-3025



September 16, 2016

Representative Daryl Metcalfe
Chairman, State Government Committee
144 Main Capitol Bldg.
P.O. Box 202012
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2012

Representative Metcalfe,

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters would like to provide comments on HB 2083. We request that our comments be submitted as part of the record for the committee hearing on this Bill on September 20, 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Joseph D. Glover'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Joseph D. Glover, ACF, CF
Chair

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Representative Daryl Metcalfe
Chairman, State Government Committee
144 Main Capitol Bldg.
P.O. Box 202012
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2012

RE: HB 2083 Forest and Wildlife Advisory Council

Representative Metcalfe,

We are writing on behalf of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) in regard to the planned implementation of the Forest and Wildlife Advisory Council. As a diverse group of foresters with varied backgrounds and business practices, we are uniquely situated to give feedback to a landowner's perspective on issues that impact the management of private forestland. Our clients represent the full spectrum of forest ownership in Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has many challenges. None of these seem to compare to the management of white-tailed deer. Since the implementation of longer doe seasons and antler restrictions over a decade ago, we as forest managers are starting to see the tangible benefits to forest health and regeneration of our client's forest lands. Where there once was a sea of fern, there is now various species of oak, maple, cherry, hickory, beech, and birch. For decades beforehand, deer populations were allowed to over browse forests and farms alike. We are finally seeing a deer population and density that is in line with what the habitat can support.

Youth and Senior hunters have an excellent and extended opportunity to be in outdoors and enjoy hunting. Now there is a movement about to reduce these opportunities? Who will serve on this Forest and Wildlife Advisory Council? What do they know about the deer management? Where will the Game Commission, which is already under funded, get the funding for another bureaucratic layer? Simply by being non-paid

“advisors” does not mean that it has no cost in time and money to an already over-stretched Game Commission.

The Pennsylvania Chapter ACF, on behalf of our diverse client base, is united on the position that the Game Commission should remain in charge of our Commonwealth’s white-tailed deer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph D. Glover". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Joseph D. Glover, ACF, CF
Chapter Chair

David Miller, ACF
Policy Committee Chair

jdg/dm

CC:
ACF Membership