



Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 147
To
House Game and Fisheries Committee
From
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Sportsmen's Alliance
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Mr. Chairman, and members of the Game and Fisheries Committee, we appreciate the chance to offer testimony in support of SB 147. I represent the Sportsmen's Alliance, which protects the rights of Americans to hunt, fish and trap. Over the last year we have been a part of a coalition of groups advocating for Pennsylvania to lift the ban on Sunday hunting. I am writing as a proponent of SB 147.

The facts on this issue are indisputable. Pennsylvania is one of just a handful of states that restrict sportsmen from hunting such a premium day of recreation, and the trend continues to make the commonwealth an even greater outlier. Every border state allows more Sunday hunting opportunities than Pennsylvania. Despite its reputation as a state with a rich hunting heritage, other major hunting states such as Michigan and Texas, among many others, allow this opportunity for their sportsmen and women.

It is indisputable that weekends are premium recreational time, unlike the days of the week when work and school present barriers to time in the field. People spend money when they recreate, and a full weekend of hunting presents many more miles in the truck, more meals in restaurants, and more nights in lodges, hotels and cabins. More days of hunting = more money in the economy.

Hunting on Sundays does not present challenges to neighbors or others who are recreating in the area. Hunting safety is off the charts, much safer than most other outdoor pursuits. When a rare accident does occur it's overwhelmingly the case that we hurt only ourselves. So while we share the woods with all others six days a week, we'd simply ask for the same courtesy,

especially since our dollars have purchased a great deal of land others enjoy twelve months a year.

It is a fact that lack of time is a major reason people give up hunting. While Pennsylvania boasts roughly 1 million hunters, like all other states, hunting numbers are in decline over the last 40 years. The ban on Sunday hunting ignores the data that tells us time is part of the reason we're losing hunters.

Our coalition has bent over backwards to work with opponents of Sunday hunting. We're frankly stunned there even remains any opposition at all. We believe people should have the right to choose when they hunt. And we believe people should have the right to choose if they want to allow it on their own property. But the bill before you would allow just three days of hunting. Three, mostly occurring during the most sought-after time period of the hunting calendar.

Allowing hunting on Sundays harms no one. Instead it provides opportunities, not just for sportsmen and women, but also for area businesses. Senate Bill 147 is an extremely modest proposal that addresses the unfairness in the law that bans sportsmen from half of every weekend of every hunting season of the year. We urge this committee not to allow a few opponents to block such a modest proposal. Instead, reward the groups that have worked so diligently to seek compromise, and pass Senate Bill 147.