



Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists

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On the front lines – so you can be in the woods, on the water, or at the range!

SENATE BILL 147 - SUNDAY HUNTING HEARING TESTIMONY

September 10, 2019

Good afternoon Chairmen Gillespie and Kortz, members of the Committee, staff and guests,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this very important subject - Senate Bill 147. This is important legislation, that was originally intended to move wildlife management in the right direction, ensuring Pennsylvania's decisions are led by science and made by our subject matter experts. It is known as the "Sunday Hunting Bill" providing more hunting opportunity for Pennsylvania outdoorsmen and women. But it is more than a "Sunday Hunting Bill" it also intends to strengthen our trespass laws.

My name is Harold Daub. I am the executive director of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen and Conservationists. I am here today representing not only my organization, with over 57,000 members but also over 20 consolidated hunting and conservation organizations representing 1.4 million sportsmen and women of Pennsylvania. All 20 organizations have endorsed Senate Bill 147 and remain consolidated and committed in our support for bringing science-led wildlife management to this state. Several of these organizations have provided written testimony that is included for you to read.

The hunting on three Sundays each calendar year currently in the amended Senate Bill 147 is a start. Unfortunately, the bill anchors and dictates by the law two of the three proposed Sundays. This does not adhere to the science-based North American Model of Wildlife Management Plan. Wildlife management needs to be placed in the hands of the subject matter experts. Here in Pennsylvania, that is the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Every conservation organization involved in this effort understands the importance of wildlife management and recognizes the agency best to do that is the Pennsylvania Game Commission, not legislators. That being said, we thank you for your efforts in helping to repeal this 337-year-old blue law and help Pennsylvania catch up with modern-day wildlife management.

Many surveys have been done over the past year on the subject of Sunday hunting. Many of you have placed the question before your constituents. News outlets, hunting organizations and many others have conducted polls in all demographics throughout the state. The results that we've been able to tabulate indicate an average of 80% approval for allowing hunting on Sunday.

The folders that I have in front of me contain over 1,500 pages of signatures gathered by Hunters United for Sunday Hunting. There is a concerted effort underway to consolidate petitions from all of the conservation organizations as well. Once done it is estimated to be over 100,000 signatures obtained in support of SB147 and full regulatory authority be given to the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

As I mentioned in my opening, Senate Bill 147 also contains stronger hunting trespass laws that benefit both farmers and landowners. Trespass while hunting would be a primary offense enforceable by both law enforcement and game wardens. This is something the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has been wanting for many years.

As part of this testimony, I have included comments for you to read on what Sunday hunting opportunity and Senate Bill 147 means to Pennsylvania hunters. Throughout the hunting community, it is common to hear “we need to get the youth involved.” I agree with that, but many leaders in the conservation community prefer to take a wider look and say “we need to provide mentorship and hunting opportunity for all as often as possible.”

Our hunting heritage has no age limit. Whether you are eight or eighty you can still enjoy wildlife and the outdoors. The perfect example of this is from a presentation I did last fall to the Schuylkill County Sportsmen’s Association. When I finished, an 84-year-old man approached me. He extended his hand for me to shake and said "Good luck with this...I need Sunday hunting. I want to hunt, but no one has time during the week to take me, and I can't hunt alone. We need more time."

Our hunting heritage has no physical limits. Greg Traynor is an avid hunter and is a quadriplegic from a diving accident. “After my injury, it took me 10 years to get strong enough to be able to go hunting again. In 2010 I started Accessible Hunter to provide information on hunting and shooting for people with significant disabilities. Over the past 20 years, it's been my goal to encourage and support anyone who wants to participate in the outdoors. I believe legalizing Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania would be very beneficial to hunters with disabilities. Adding Sunday hunting would add opportunity for people to volunteer their time assisting individuals with disabilities or people who require assistance in the outdoors."

Our hunting heritage has no religious limits. Daniel Bowers writes “As a Seventh Day Adventist Christian, my family observes Saturday as our day of worship. This means we do not hunt Saturday and are left with only Monday through Friday. The outdoor lifestyle is a large part of our recreation. For us to hunt together, we maximize our time afield with short evenings or arranging work and school schedules to take the day off because we cannot hunt on Sunday. Having Sunday hunting would be a game-changer for us. We could hunt together without worrying about work or school schedules. I can see NO downside to allowing Sunday hunting."

The opposition over the past decades regarding removing the prohibition primarily has come from the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. They will say we have fewer hunters hunting across the entire US, and Sunday hunting has not helped stop the reduction in participation in other states. They contend Sunday opportunity would not help stop the decline here in Pennsylvania. But I ask, is this a self-fulfilling philosophy because Pennsylvania’s legislature chooses to not add time for people to participate in hunting? When surveyed, the majority of lapsed hunters indicated “time” as the number one barrier to participation. Do we not want to optimize the number of participants by removing that largest barrier to recruitment, retention and/or reactivation of Pennsylvania's hunters? In 1937, the ban on fishing on Sundays was repealed. Does anyone doubt that we would sell LESS fishing licenses today if we were not permitted to fish on Sunday?

We must strive for optimization of opportunity if we want to optimize participation rates.

Turning back to the issue of science-based wildlife management, it is interesting to me that on page 23 of the 2019 Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Policy Book it states “We recommend sound science be used to manage wildlife populations.” But yet the farm bureau promotes certain days, for this species or that, without the benefit of any scientific supporting data. Why the contradiction?

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau represents less than half of the total farming operations in Pennsylvania. There are only 22,648 PFB farmer members out of the total 53,000 Pennsylvania farms. Why is this important? Refer to the signatures here before me. There are more signatures here than there are farmers in the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. Why should we allow Pennsylvania Farm Bureau farmers to dictate landowner rights for everyone in Pennsylvania?

The Farm Bureau leadership has requested stronger trespass laws in Pennsylvania for decades. But now that they have a path to get it, they are urging their members to oppose this legislation, which makes absolutely no sense. So what is going on? Is the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau bullying you as legislators into playing their game of running out the

clock? Did farm bureau leadership ignore their members and their published position from the start by intentionally withholding the requirement for 'written permission' that we now see the farm bureau touting as the issue causing them to oppose SB147? Why would they do this? Why didn't the Pa. Farm Bureau insist 'written permission' be entered into Senate Bill 147 during the June 27, 2019 negotiations with Senator Corman prior to agreeing to the compromise of just three days?

Why is it portrayed by the farm bureau that hunters, especially on Sunday, are the only stakeholders that trespass? What about ATV riders, hikers, horseback riders and others? What you must understand about the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is that their opposition is not based on trespass or any of the other reasons that they posture with. Doug Lapp, Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau Board of Directors said at the January 27, 2019, Pennsylvania Game Commission public meeting "The Farm Bureau wants people to believe the main opposition to hunting on Sunday is trespassing and the Pennsylvania trespass laws. The truth is, at the farm bureau November 2018 policy meeting, trespassing was only mentioned once in the entire two hours of debate. The main argument against Sunday hunting was people should be in church."

While many of us agree that people should be in church, few of us want lawmakers infringing on our religious freedom. As Reverend Dr. Nathan Minnich wrote "I fear they [legislators] neither understand the history, meaning, nor the significance of Sabbath, and have completely failed to recognize that it is not within the boundaries granted them by their public office to define such a term. If this is the primary reason for restricting hunting activities, then those holding legislative office must seek to protect the Sabbath of all Pennsylvanians per their various definitions; a futile task at best."

The Keystone Trails Association also is an often quoted opponent of SB147. Their main reason for opposition to SB147 is "hikers fearing for their safety." I can't say it any better than Bryan Burhans, executive director, Pennsylvania Game Commission did during his 2016 testimony to this committee. He stated "these groups advocate for just one day per week that they can recreate as they choose without the fear of a hunting-related incident or accident. The truth of the matter is that these groups recreate 365 days per year, including Saturdays and Sundays during hunting seasons. They recreate on State Game Lands, State Forests, at State Parks, and in the Allegheny National Forest; all lands where hunting is permitted. It is important to note that despite the inaccurate portrayal of these groups, hunting is an inherently safe sport."

The proof is in the Keystone Trails Association's current published hiking schedule. Hikes are scheduled every day of the week Sunday through Saturday during hunting season negating any argument that hikers "fear for their safety." It is important to note that the Keystone Trails Association belongs to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Mid-Atlantic Region. They do not oppose Sunday hunting. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy provides published guidance to be used by its member clubs regarding hunting and hiker safety.

I will leave you with these thoughts as it pertains to hikers and hunters:

1. If Keystone Trails Association hikers are afraid of hunters then why are hikes scheduled seven days of the week, even during popular hunting seasons, and utilizing State Game Lands?
2. Hasn't the non-hunting public shown in their economic interest a willingness to participate and recreate seven days a week regardless of hunting activity?
3. Think of the additional economic contribution hunters can and will make when authorized to hunt on Sundays.

When it comes to the Keystone Trails Association and SB147 ask yourself this; is it right for one group of outdoor enthusiasts to recreate freely and not another? Is there any solid evidence to perpetuate the restriction of hunters liberties? Are you willing to write a law that places the same restrictions on hikers as there are on hunters?

You as legislators are at a critical decision point. Do you continue to make history by passing Senate Bill 147 as currently written without further hesitation, allowing for Sunday hunting opportunity as quickly as possible? Do you fall victim to the bullying tactics of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau? Do you cower with the emotional 'we don't want it; we fear for our safety' crowd? Whichever way you vote, whatever message resonates with you, please remember you are participating in history. Ask yourself how do you want to be remembered; as the legislator that helped bring Pennsylvania wildlife management into the 21st Century standards or the legislator that perpetuated a 337-year-old law from 1682 designed to intrude on religious freedom and liberty? The decision is yours.

When it comes to the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and Senate Bill 147, my request to you as lawmakers is to stop the farm bureau's decades-old strategy of running out the clock each legislative session. Pass SB147 in its current form, it is a start to allow the PGC to use the best science available to manage our wildlife and to bring Sunday hunting opportunity to Pennsylvania. Disregard the farm bureau opposition. Unfortunately, our Farm Bureau seems to be out of touch with all the farm bureaus in states that border Pennsylvania except one. The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has already cost Pennsylvania \$500 million in tax revenue over the past 10 years by opposing the repeal of this blue law.

Take this first step and set the stage for real discussions and solutions to end this archaic law that restricts the liberties of citizens, hinders wildlife conservation in the commonwealth, causes farmers more impact from crop damage and denies a positive economic benefit to Pennsylvania.

Look to the future, be leaders and the conduit that brings sportsmen and conservation organizations, legislators, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Keystone Trails Association and others together for real discussions and solutions regarding wildlife management, outdoor recreation, and landowner rights.

I have full faith that as Game and Fisheries Committee members you will make the right decision. I hope that your colleagues in the House will follow your lead as SB147 makes its way through the legislative process and onto the governor's desk for signature.

Thank you again for this opportunity. I am honored to have had this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen and Conservationists and the conservation community united behind a commitment to provide science-based and led wildlife management for the benefit of all Pennsylvania citizens and visitors.

Sincerely;



Harold Daub

Executive Director

Pa. Federation of Sportsman & Conservationists

References:

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION WRITTEN TESTIMONY - SUPPORT SB147

https://drive.google.com/file/d/10vi5uda9EY5UmPj2MJdeJ_kUhKhypMgG/view?usp=sharing

SUNDAY HUNTING - WHAT DO THE POLLS SAY

<https://huntersforsundayhunting.blogspot.com/2018/05/sunday-hunting-what-do-polls-say.html>

SIGNED SUNDAY HUNTING PETITIONS

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_wf0kveIW12iuluFgEoPu_Adynqudfb-?usp=sharing

THE PA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NEED TO KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE SUNDAY HUNTING OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED IN SENATE BILL 147.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sCubGmkfyBt9gFCVUGo9YYxraPCFAU5L/view?usp=sharing>

A LESSON FROM AN 84 YEAR OLD AVID HUNTER. CAN WE LEARN FROM IT?

<https://huntersforsundayhunting.blogspot.com/2018/12/pa-turkey-talk-article-can-we-learn.html>

I AM A QUADRIPLAGIC - SUNDAY HUNTING WOULD HELP

<https://huntersforsundayhunting.blogspot.com/2019/02/i-am-quadruplegic-sunday-hunting-would.html>

SATURDAY IS OUR DAY OF WORSHIP. SUNDAY WE COULD HUNT

<https://huntersforsundayhunting.blogspot.com/2019/06/saturday-is-our-day-of-worship-sunday.html>

REV. DR. NATHAN CORL MINNICH SUNDAY HUNTING, BIBLICALLY? - NEITHER COMMANDING NOR FORBIDDING.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Bs9BceuabQSSj3p8zYrA-saW8Nbx7fKa/view?usp=sharing>

PAGE 23, 2019 PA. FARM BUREAU POLICY BOOK, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SECTION, LINE 6

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aR7xA7Or-OwaQf33UumuEyxmFTYvgnHh/view?usp=sharing>

WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PA FARM BUREAU - SUNDAY HUNTING

<https://huntersforsundayhunting.blogspot.com/2019/02/what-is-objective-of-pa-farm-bureau.html>

2018 STATE AGRICULTURE OVERVIEW

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/Ag_Overview/stateOverview.php?state=PENNSYLVANIA

HOW MANY FARMERS DOES THE PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU REPRESENT?

https://huntersforsundayhunting.blogspot.com/2019/01/how-many-farmers-does-pennsylvania-farm_26.html

DOUG LAPP, AG LIAISON HUSH, COMMENTS TO PA GAME COMMISSION - JANUARY 2019

<https://huntersforsundayhunting.blogspot.com/2019/01/doug-lapp-ag-liason-hush-comments-to-pa.html>

FARM BUREAUS SURROUNDING PA SUPPORT SUNDAY HUNTING - STUDY

<https://huntersforsundayhunting.blogspot.com/2019/05/farm-bureaus-surrounding-pa-support.html>

PA FARM BUREAUS OPPOSITION COST STATE \$500 MILLION IN TAX REVENUE

<https://huntersforsundayhunting.blogspot.com/2019/06/pa-farm-bureaus-opposition-cost-state.html>

PGC 2016 PA. SENATE GAME & FISHERIES COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-n80QxwrvJqD0EFB9P_pWvOu3LePgnB8/view?usp=sharing

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION HIKING SCHEDULE

<https://www.kta-hike.org/events.html>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HUe04w_wI0GHE_fm wzI5r2RObVldAAFm?usp=sharing

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY - KTA

<http://www.appalachiantrail.org/home/about-us/regional-partnerships>

TIPS FOR HIKERS DURING HUNTING SEASON

<http://www.appalachiantrail.org/home/explore-the-trail/hiking-basics/safety/hunting>

KEYSTONE TRAIL STATISTICS/TALKING POINTS

<https://www.kta-hike.org/legislation-kta-is-following.html>

PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU - SUNDAY HUNTING TALKING POINTS

<https://www.pfb.com/policy-pfb/issues/2115-state-issues-expanding-sunday-hunting>

August 27, 2019

To:

Rep. Keith Gillespie, Chair, House Game & Fisheries Committee

Rep. William Kortz, Democratic Chair, House Game & Fisheries Committee

Dear Chairman Gillespie and Kortz:

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization, welcomes the opportunity to discuss our position on Sunday hunting, and we appreciate the committee giving this issue a full hearing. This is a passionate issue, and we feel it's important to have a full vetting of opinions.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is opposed to Sunday hunting and Senate Bill 147 as it is currently written. Our organization's stance on Sunday hunting is not based on the input or philosophical belief of our staff, or our appointed board of directors. The stances that our organization takes for and against Sunday hunting or any other issue is determined by our members—and our members alone. That makes us unique among most organizations. Our stances are developed through a robust grassroots process that is truly led by farmers at every step. Every member who makes his or her living through agriculture, whether on the farm or an agriculture related business, can play a role in our policy development process. We communicate frequently with our members on how they can take part and add their insight to the process.

Last November, our members at our Annual Meeting developed a policy that would allow Pennsylvania Farm Bureau to remain neutral on the issue of Sunday hunting, provided that certain criteria were met. Those criteria include:

- Stronger trespassing laws.
- Limiting Sunday hunting to three days with the primary focus on antlerless deer.
- For those Sundays, anyone seeking to hunt on private property would need written landowner permission.

This is a significant shift in stance for Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, which has historically opposed Sunday hunting under any circumstances. However, this policy change was member-driven. This change was born in part through the frustration that farmers in parts of the state are having with an overabundance of deer. They viewed this change to as a way to potentially grow the number of deer harvested every year, and thereby reducing crop damage. In addition, some of our members expressed their opinion that restrictions on Sunday hunting was a restriction on private property rights. What emerged from the process was a compromise that members felt addressed their concerns over deer populations, problems with hunters trespassing and a desire to allow hunters to use their land on Sundays.

In December 2018, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau staff and volunteers held a meeting with both chairs of the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee to discuss our change in policy. At that meeting, Farm Bureau outlined the circumstances under which we could remain neutral on the issue of Sunday hunting.

Senate Bill 147, when it was introduced in early 2019, did not reflect our policy positions. We opposed the bill when it was voted on at the committee level, and communicated our concerns repeatedly to members of the Senate in the ensuing weeks. Every member of the Senate was made aware of the criteria where Farm Bureau could be neutral, including the need for hunting on private property with written permission. After months of debate, SB 147 was significantly amended to limit Sunday hunting to only three days. We acknowledge that Senate members moved the bill closer to where Farm Bureau can be neutral. However, in order for us to take that stance, we would need SB 147 to be further amended to address hunting on private property with written permission for the Sundays designated for hunting. If that change is made to SB 147, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau will remain neutral on the bill.

For responsible hunters, none of the provisions called for in Senate Bill 147, or a requirement for written permission, should be problematic. For hunters who abide by private property boundaries, the increased penalties for trespassing will have no impact on them. In addition, we believe that requiring written permission will protect both the landowner and the hunter. A hunter who carries with them written permission from a landowner into the field will have easy proof to show to a Game

Warden or other law enforcement officer that might question them. Abiding by private property boundaries, and obtaining written permission from landowners, is good practice and are common-sense principals that any responsible hunter should follow. It's worth noting that 20 other states require hunters to carry written permission with them when hunting, including Ohio and Maryland.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission encourages hunters to practice written permission. Attached to this testimony is an addendum that includes a written permission card printed by the Game Commission in its online hunter digest. Also included is a similar permission card offered by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. This is not a new concept, so it's not a stretch to ask the hunting community in Pennsylvania to abide by similar standards.

Farmers frustration with Sunday hunting centers on the issue of trespassing, and our long tradition of giving landowners a one-day a week break from hunting pressure. Farmers by in large welcome hunting on their property. But a number of our members have through the years experienced significant problems with hunters trespassing on their land and failing to ask for permission to be there. Tree stands and trail cameras have been placed on private property—again without permission—and gates have been left open and crops damaged.

Why is trespassing such an issue in Pennsylvania? One contributing factor is our hunter density numbers. We have the largest number of licensed hunters per square mile than any other state. Added to that fact is that most hunting in Pennsylvania takes place on private property. That creates a scenario where hunters can unknowingly, or intentionally, wander on to private property. This is equally problematic during deer hunting, as farm ground is often prime whitetail habitat. While Sunday hunting has religious origins, it's grown into a longstanding tradition in Pennsylvania. Our landowners have grown to appreciate that they can have one day to themselves without feeling like they must police their property.

Our hunting related trespassing laws are notoriously weak. They do not provide an effective deterrent to hunters who willfully trespass on private property. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has long advocated for stronger trespassing laws that can be enforced by Game Wardens and would prove as a significant deterrent for hunters to violate the law. We appreciate that Senate Bill 147 would make our

trespassing laws stronger. This issue should have been addressed long ago, and should SB 147 fail, we will continue to push for stronger trespassing laws. We believe that addressing trespassing will go a long way to easing landowners concerns over Sunday hunting.

In the debate over Sunday hunting, we have heard time and again from hunters saying that landowners can simply “post their land,” as if that one act will in and of itself make trespassing disappear. Much like a posted speed limit sign without vigorous law enforcement, a no-trespassing sign might just be viewed as a suggestion—not a warning. By in large, our state’s hunting community abides by the spirit of private property rights. However, all it takes is one bad experience to make a landowner close their property down to the public. That frustration is equally compounded if a law enforcement officer is not available to enforce the law. When Pennsylvania eventually adopts stronger trespassing laws, we are calling on our Game Wardens and other law enforcement officers to vigorously enforce them. Hunters who willfully violate the law need to know that there are consequences to those actions. Steps like this will go a long way to improving landowner relations.

We also believe that the state needs to make it easier for landowners to post their property—if they so choose—by adopting so called “purple paint” laws. Purple paint laws allow landowners to mark their property boundaries with purple paint stripes on trees and fence posts. Those markings have the same legal implications as traditional “No Trespassing signs,” and would carry the same weight for violating our state’s trespassing laws. Similar laws are on the books in Texas, Indiana and West Virginia, and have proven popular with landowners. First, it makes it easier for landowners to maintain their boundaries and convey to others that their land is private. Secondly, it’s nearly impossible for a trespasser to deface these types of signs. It should provide our law enforcement officers with another tool to help them prosecute hunters and others who are on private property without permission. State Rep. Dawn Keefer has introduced House Bill 1772 and we believe this piece of legislation should be part of any conversation about strengthening hunting related trespassing.

Traditions change slowly. We often hear of how every state surrounding Pennsylvania offers Sunday hunting. While that is true, it’s worth noting that every

one of our neighbors took a slow and measured approach to approving Sunday hunting. States like New York opened Sunday hunting on a regional basis, while Ohio started allowing limited Sunday hunting on public land, and on private property with more than 20 contiguous acres. West Virginia and Maryland opened Sunday hunting on a county-by-county basis. Senate Bill 147—should it become law—represents a similar measured approach to allowing Sunday hunting.

What is notable about those states is that even with Sunday hunting, they continue to see declines in hunter numbers. Some that are pushing for Sunday hunting argue that it will drive hunter participation. However, those facts do not bear out based on the experiences in surrounding states. Hunter recruitment and retention in Pennsylvania cannot simply focus on Sunday hunting.

To summarize, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is opposed to Senate Bill 147 in its current form. That is based on the set of policy criteria that our members have established on the issue of Sunday hunting. However, should the bill be amended to include provisions for written permission on Sundays, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau will be neutral on the bill.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

Regards,



Darrin Youker
Director, State Government Affairs

Addendum 1

Pennsylvania Game Commission hunter permission slip, available through Game Commission's online 2019-2020 Hunter/Trapper Digest

Ask Permission Before Entering Private Property.

	<p style="text-align: center;">PERMISSION TO HUNT/TRAP</p> <p>I hereby grant permission to the person named below to hunt and/or trap on my property located at: _____ on the following dates: _____ Signed: _____</p> <p>In return for the privilege of hunting/trapping on this property, I agree to obey the laws, to observe all safety precautions, and to assume all responsibility and liability for my person and my property while on the landowner's property. Signed: _____ Address: _____ License CID # : _____ Date: _____</p>
<p>Dear Landowner: Thank you for allowing me on your property. Because of your generosity, I've been able to enjoy Pennsylvania's rich hunting and trapping heritage.</p>	

The Recreational Use of Land and Water Act provides liability protection to landowners who allow recreational use (hunting, fishing, swimming and hiking) on their unimproved property to the public without a fee.

Permission for Hunting, Fishing or Trapping on Private Land

Permission is hereby granted to the undersigned sportsperson for hunting/fishing/trapping on land owned by the undersigned landowner or their agent for the date(s) listed and according to the conditions stated on the reverse side of this permit.

In accepting this permit, I agree to assume and release the landowner from any or all liability for personal injuries, property damage, or for the loss of life or property resulting from, or in any way connected with the issuance of this permit.

Hunting/Fishing/Trapping Permission Period: *(check one)*

- Seasonal - Through February 28, 20 _____
- Daily - Valid From Date(s) ____/____/____ to ____/____/____

Sportsperson's Signature Today's Date

Hunting/Fishing License No. _____

Sportsperson's Address: _____
(street)

(city, state, zip code)

Sportsperson's Telephone (_____) _____

Vehicle License No., Make, and Model: _____

Landowner or Agent's Signature

Ohio Revised Code 1533.101: Exemption from liability to recreational users

- (A) No owner, or lessee, or occupant of premises:
- (1) Owes any duty to a recreational user to keep the premises safe for entry or use.
 - (2) Extends any assurance to a recreational user, through the act of giving permission, that the premises are safe for entry or use;
 - (3) Assumes responsibility for or incurs liability for any injury to person or property caused by any act of a recreational user.



1-Landowner or Agent · 2-Hunter/Angler
DNR 8924 (R11.06)

Conditions

1. To respect the rights of the property owner
2. To be careful in the handling of firearms
3. Not to damage fences, buildings, or other property
4. Not to litter the area or dump any rubbish
5. To obey all hunting laws and regulations of the Division of Wildlife
6. This free permit is only valid on the lands of the issuing landowner and only for the days specified.
7. _____

Addendum 2,
Ohio Division of
Wildlife
Hunting/Trapping
permission slip.

<https://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/portals/0/forms/wildlife/DNR8924PermissionPrivateLand.pdf>