



To: **Hon. Joe Pittman**
Chair, Senate Rules & Executive Nominations Committee
Senate Box 203041
Room: 350 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Hon. Jay Costa
Minority Chair, Senate Rules & Executive Nominations Committee
Senate Box 203043
Room 535 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: **House Bill 1300**

Position: **Support Amendment Removing the Transfer of \$150M from
the Game Fund**

Date: **10/5/2023**

Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania Senate Rules & Executive Nominations Committee,
As the Senior Coordinator, Mid-Atlantic States for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), I respectfully urge you to concur with the most current text amendment in House Bill 1300 that removes the transfer of \$150M from the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) to the Clean Streams Fund. The transfer of such funds would be an extreme financial burden on the PGC and its ability to effectively accomplish its mission of conserving the Commonwealth's wildlife resources and their habitats. The wildlife diversity we enjoy today is largely due to the agency's progressive, scientifically-based wildlife management programs – supported and funded by sportsmen and women through the American System of Conservation Funding.

In addition to the \$150M direct financial loss deriving from the previous version of HB 1300, such transfer would likely subject the State to the loss of federal grant funding through the Wildlife Restoration Program (Pittman-Robertson Act). The previous amendment would have transferred revenue from oil and gas leases on PGC lands (lands purchased with hunting license dollars and Pittman-Robertson apportionments) and transfer it to the Clean Streams Fund. Failure to adhere to the federal grant requirements included in the Pittman-Robertson Act (that revenue from hunting license sales be used only for wildlife conservation and other agency

purposes) would have likely resulted in Pennsylvania being deemed ineligible to receive funding from the Wildlife Restoration Program. In FY2023 alone, the PA Game Commission received \$41,067,392 from this grant fund.

In closing, actions such as transferring \$150M from the Game Fund, would have negatively impacted the Commonwealth, which as of 2022 included 929,327 hunters, but it would have proved detrimental to the State of Pennsylvania, its visitors, and the conservation of wildlife and their habitats for decades to come. I therefore urge this Committee to concur with the removal of the \$150 million transfer from the Game Fund to the Clean Streams Fund in the final, agreed-upon version.

Sincerely,



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