



July 25, 2025

President Stanley Knick Jr.  
c/o Executive Director of Pennsylvania Game Commission  
2001 Elmerton Ave  
Harrisburg PA, 17110

Dear President Knick,

My name is Fred Bird, and I am the Manager, Eastern States for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). I write to you with the purpose of expressing CSF's support for the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) Board of Commissioners to utilize its recently expanded authority to regulate Sunday hunting by fully authorizing Sunday Hunting for the 2025-2026 hunting seasons and beyond. This change would provide new opportunities for Pennsylvania's nearly 1 million licensed hunters, as well as traveling non-resident hunting license holders. With expanded Sunday hunting in the Commonwealth yet to be implemented, additional days of hunting are a great win for licensed hunters, wildlife managers, rural economies, and the conservation efforts of the PGC; and CSF encourages the Board to vote favorably on its full implementation.

Founded in 1989, CSF is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

For over 85 years, sportsmen and women have played a crucial role in funding conservation efforts in the United States through the American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF). The American System is a "user pays - public benefits" structure, unique from the rest of the world, in which those that consumptively use public resources pay for the privilege, and in some cases the right, to do so. These critical conservation dollars fund a variety of efforts including enhanced fish and wildlife habitat and populations, recreational access to public and private lands, shooting ranges and boat access facilities, wetlands protection and its associated water filtration and flood retention functions, and improved soil and water conservation – all which benefit the public at large, not just sportsmen and women. Significant expansion of Sunday

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hunting through fully implementing it in all seasons and for all species will very likely result in even greater sportsmen-generated conservation dollars in the future.

Moreover, the resident sportsmen and women of Pennsylvania have asked for this change for nearly two decades. Given that demand, CSF urges the Board to fully open all Sunday opportunities which have been proven to not cause any increase in Law Enforcement concerns. As has been demonstrated in other states that have recently significantly expanded Sunday hunting opportunities, Sunday hunting does not negatively impact wildlife conservation efforts or harm the health of wildlife populations. Additionally, other states have not seen an increased rate of user conflicts with other recreationalists on Sundays greater than those occurring on the other days of the week.

Finally, with access being cited in scientific literature as one of the biggest challenges in growing and retaining participation within our community, additional hunt days will increase temporal-access for hunters and aid in hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) efforts in the Commonwealth. Progress in this area will ultimately serve to stabilize conservation funding from hunters into the future and support rural economies.

In recognition of the many positive bearings mentioned above, CSF offers our staunch support for the full implementation of Sunday hunting. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Bird', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fred Bird  
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