



April 22, 2024

Senator Greg Rothman
168 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3034

Chair Rothman:

On behalf of Safari Club International (SCI), I write in support of Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania and, specifically, for Senate Bill 67. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt promoting sustainable-use wildlife conservation worldwide. Our organization, along with active members and chapters in Pennsylvania (Allegheny Mountains, Blue Mountain, East Ohio-Northwest Penn, Lehigh Valley, Pittsburg, and Three State), strongly support this important bill that would dramatically increase access for sportsmen and women who hunt in the Keystone State.

As you know, the proposed legislation would give the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) the discretion to “institute Sunday hunting by regulation promulgated in accordance with section 2102” under the Pennsylvania Code. SCI believes that, similar to the other hunting rules and regulations, the trained wildlife professionals at the PGC are in the best position to determine Sunday hunting regulations. Importantly, the PGC also supports this bill.

SCI is grateful for the historic Senate Bill 147 in 2019 that ended the century-old prohibition on Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania by adding three Sundays on which to hunt.

Unfortunately, as you fully understand, many hunters today are still prevented from introducing new or novice hunters to the great outdoors because they are competing against work, organized sports, and other activities on Saturdays, which is currently their only opportunity to hunt outside of the typical work and school week.

Additionally, not allowing for Sunday hunting severely limits the non-resident hunters, and associated license dollars, coming to the state. This stance ignores the fact that hunting is a deep part of Pennsylvania's heritage, and sportsmen and women who pursue game in Pennsylvania directly contribute millions of dollars each year to the economy while directly supporting over 25,000 jobs.

Hunters often cite “lack of time” as one of the number one reasons they stop hunting. Expanding Sunday hunting is key to providing more people, especially youth and beginners, with more opportunities to engage in hunting, which ultimately leads to generating more hunters in the years to come.



Maintaining America's large number of hunters is crucial to maintaining the revenues necessary to sustain abundant wildlife and wildlife habitat – for both game and non-game – conservation programs as well as the access related programs and many other on the ground conservation programs funded by sportsmen and women and implemented by the PGC.

After the first few successful and safe seasons of Sunday hunting that saw an increase of over 26,000 licenses sold in 2020 alone, Senate Bill 67 will help build on the rich history of hunting in Pennsylvania by providing even more opportunities for sportsmen and women to take to the woods.

SCI greatly appreciates the time and attention you and your staff have spent to help increase access and opportunity for sportsmen and women who hunt in Pennsylvania, and we respectfully ask for further consideration and passage of Senate Bill 67.

Sincerely,

Laird Hamberlin
CEO – Safari Club International/Foundation