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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

*Member*  
*75<sup>th</sup> Legislative District*

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June 22, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Representative Matt Gabler

**SUBJECT:** Introduction of Legislation – Amending the Game and Wildlife Code to Remove the Statutory Prohibition Against Hunting with an Air or Gas Powered Weapon

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In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation amending the Game and Wildlife Code to remove the prohibition on hunting with an air or gas powered weapon. This would not automatically allow these weapons to be used for hunting, but would simply give the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) the authority to regulate the use of such weapons during specific seasons or for specific species as they see fit in order to properly manage our various game species. Currently, statute specifically prohibits the PGC from allowing the use of these weapons.

Air and gas powered weapon technology has advanced in great lengths in recent years, with many such weapons now having equal or greater muzzle energy and stopping power when compared with numerous small caliber weapons currently allowed under law or regulation of the commission. Many states, including Virginia and neighboring Maryland, Ohio, New York, West Virginia and Delaware allow hunting with air powered weapons. I believe it is time for Pennsylvania to move into the twenty-first century and allow the PGC and their experts to use their data and expertise to determine whether the regulated use of these weapons is prudent with today's technology.

If you would like to be listed as a co-sponsor of this legislation, please call Alex Baldivieso at 260-6167, or e-mail her at [Abaldivi@pahousegop.com](mailto:Abaldivi@pahousegop.com). Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.