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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
GAME AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE

Public Hearing re: House Bill 1436

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Stenographic report of public hearing held  
at 2929 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thursday  
September 27, 2007  
7:00 p.m.

HONORABLE Ed Staback, MAJORITY CHAIRMAN  
HONORABLE Sam Rohrer, MINORITY CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HONORABLE Michael McGeehan  
HONORABLE Rob Kauffman  
HONORABLE Marc Gergely  
HONORABLE Mark Keller  
HONORABLE Gordon Denlinger  
HONORABLE Mark Cohen

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TESTIFIER

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Robb Miller

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Kelly Sager

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Brendon Pitcairn

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Ben Adams

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Video narrated by Erin Barnes

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Ken Undercoffer

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Richard Czop

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Jean Wallace

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Melody Zullinger

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Dr. Douglas Austen

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Written Testimony by Rick Anderson

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1                   (Whereupon, the proceeding  
2                   commenced at approximately, 7:15  
3                   p.m.)

4                   CHAIRMAN STABACK: Good evening everyone.  
5                   The hour of 7:00, having come and gone, I would  
6                   like to call this meeting of the House Gaming  
7                   and Fisheries Committee to order.

8                   Before we start, I would like to take a  
9                   moment for the members, starting on my left, to  
10                  identify themselves and the district that they  
11                  represent.

12                  REPRESENTATIVE MCGEEHAN: Good evening. I  
13                  am Mike McGeehan from Philadelphia.

14                  REPRESENTATIVE KAUFFMAN: Rob Kauffman  
15                  from the 89th in Franklin and Cumberland  
16                  Counties.

17                  REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: Marc Gergely,  
18                  35th District, Allegheny County.

19                  CHAIRMAN STABACK: My name is Ed Staback,  
20                  I represent the 115th, which is Northern  
21                  Lackawanna and Southern Wayne.

22                  MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: And I am Sam  
23                  Rohrer, and I represent Southern Berks County.

24                  REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Good evening. I

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1 am Mark Keller with the 86th District, which is  
2 all of Perry County and part of Franklin.

3 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Good evening.  
4 Gordon Denlinger, representing the 99th  
5 District, Eastern Lancaster County.

6 REPRESENTATIVE COHEN: Mark Cohen,  
7 Philadelphia.

8 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Thank you, gentlemen.  
9 The Committee is here, in Philadelphia, to  
10 continue to hear testimony on a proposed new  
11 junior fishing license in House Bill 1436. The  
12 context is strongly supported by the  
13 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, who is  
14 represented here, this evening, by their  
15 executive director, Dr. Douglas Austen, who  
16 will be offering remarks later in the evening.

17 Before we start taking testimony, I would  
18 like to turn the floor over to Representative  
19 Mike McGeehan, who has been instrumental in the  
20 formation of House Bill 1436 right from the  
21 onset, and, also, is hosting the Committee's  
22 visit to his home city of Philadelphia tonight.  
23 Michael.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MCGEEHAN: Thank you very

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1 much, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of  
2 Representative Cohen and I, we would like to  
3 welcome you to the City of Philadelphia, or as  
4 our colleagues like to refer to it as, the  
5 black hole for your tax dollars.

6 I appreciate, Mr. Chairman Staback and  
7 Chairman Rohrer, the lengths that you have gone  
8 to, to come to Philadelphia. This is the third  
9 time, I think, that you've come to  
10 Philadelphia, and I hope that, not only do the  
11 members glean some information from this  
12 meeting, but also enjoy the sites and the  
13 events and activities and cultural outlets that  
14 the city has to offer.

15 So, on behalf of all Philadelphians, we  
16 welcome you, Mr. Chairman, and the committee  
17 members.

18 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Thank you, Mike. Also  
19 here with us from the other part of the state  
20 is the other representative who is a prime  
21 sponsor in House Bill 1436, in the light is  
22 State Representative Marc Gergely.

23 Marc has been a leader and the promotion  
24 of the state's fishing opportunities, and has

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1           been in the forefront of the Junior Fishing  
2           Council from the very onset.

3                     I would like to call on Marc, right now,  
4           to give us a brief overview.   Marc.

5                     REPRESENTATIVE COHEN:   Thank you very  
6           much, Mr. Chairman; thank you Representative  
7           McGeehan for being such a cordial host.   Again,  
8           as you mentioned, the last two times this event  
9           -- it is really exciting to be in Philadelphia,  
10          and, also, to learn about the Delaware River  
11          Basin and equality, and the Schuylkill River  
12          and all that you have to offer in Philadelphia,  
13          Michael.

14                    The purpose, tonight, was to address youth  
15          game and fishing, and I think the list of  
16          speakers will greatly outline the need for this  
17          to occur in the state.   And one of my  
18          incumbencies, I guess their questions would be,  
19          with these presenters, also, shows that work  
20          Dr. Austen and his executive board has done a  
21          great job addressing the many concerns with our  
22          members at moving this bill forward.   I think  
23          that you have seen that we have 42 sponsors on  
24          this bill.   Potentially, there is a positive

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1 movement that we want to see this happen.

2 We've addressed issues with the sunset  
3 provision where we began pleading with the  
4 provision that these funds are being expended,  
5 both in the rural and urban areas. This is for  
6 recruitment, this is for continuation of the  
7 programs that are already in existence and to  
8 upgrade facilities that make this more  
9 accessible to you.

10 And I want to congratulate the Committee  
11 for being so active and thank the members for  
12 coming today.

13 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Thank you very much,  
14 Marc.

15 With that, we will call on our first  
16 individuals to offer testimony, and that would  
17 be Mr. Rob Miller, who represents the governor;  
18 he is the governor's advisor on hunting,  
19 fishing and conservation. Rob will be joined  
20 by three young folks who are the Governor's  
21 Youth Council, in the likes of Miss Kelly  
22 Sager, Brendon Pitcairn and Ben Adams.

23 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It  
24 is an honor and a privilege to address the Game

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1 and Fisheries Committee.

2 Tonight -- well, shortly after  
3 Representative Staback asked me to provide  
4 testimony with regard to the junior fishing  
5 license, I really thought that it would be best  
6 to hear from kids on this issue. While the  
7 adult council voted unanimously to support the  
8 Fish and Boat Commission with regards to this  
9 piece of legislation, so did the youth council,  
10 and I just thought that it would help the  
11 members understand where kids are coming from  
12 on this issue.

13 So, with that thought, I asked Kelly Sager  
14 to join us. Kelly is a junior at Hempfield  
15 High School in Lancaster County. She is an  
16 events planner for the Renaissance Club at her  
17 high school, which is a service organization,  
18 and she has been fishing since she was allowed  
19 to hold a rod. She also hunts with a bow, a  
20 rifle and a shotgun, and she's been hunting  
21 since the age of 12. She's been on the  
22 Governor's Youth Council, now, since 2005.

23 Brendan Pitcairn is a junior at the  
24 Academy of the New Church in Montgomery County



1 where he was chosen by faculty as student of  
2 the month last March. He is a member of the  
3 NRA; he is a member of the United Bowhunters  
4 and he has been hunting since the age of 12.  
5 He, also, has been fishing since he can  
6 remember.

7 Brendan has a passion of sharing his love  
8 of the outdoors, including hunting and fishing,  
9 especially with other kids. And he has been a  
10 youth counselor in teaching hunting and fishing  
11 at camps, now, for awhile. He specializes in  
12 Native American arts.

13 And Benjamin, who is 14, is an 8th grader  
14 at the Bryn Athyn Church School in Montgomery  
15 County. He is a dedicated lacrosse athlete and  
16 he was introduced to fishing by his dad who  
17 started to take him out at the age of five.

18 He has attended a wilderness survival  
19 school for the last three years.

20 So, with that, I will conclude my remarks,  
21 and, please, welcome these members of the  
22 Governor's Youth Council on Hunting, Fishing  
23 and Conservation to testify to this  
24 legislation.

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1 Thank you.

2 MISS SAGER: Good evening, gentlemen. I  
3 would like to start by thanking you for the  
4 opportunity to address this Committee.

5 We are here on behalf of the Governor's  
6 Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing and  
7 Conservation. The council was created in 2001  
8 by Governor Tom Ridge, and then re-established  
9 by Governor Ed Rendell in 2003.

10 The Governor's Youth Council for Hunting,  
11 Fishing and Conservation is a select group of  
12 up to 20 students between the ages of 14 and  
13 18, who are from all parts of the state. Our  
14 current members or nominees are from the  
15 following counties: Allegheny, Bradford, Bucks,  
16 Butler, Clearfield, Clinton, Lancaster,  
17 Montgomery, Pike, Sullivan, Tioga and  
18 Westmoreland Counties.

19 Most council members are active in the  
20 outdoors by participating in hunting, fishing,  
21 trapping, boating, hiking, competitive  
22 shooting, camping and more. Our members are  
23 also involved in programs such as the Youth  
24 Hunter Education Challenge, the National Rifle

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1 Association's Youth Education Summit, Safari  
2 Club International's American Wilderness  
3 Leadership School and many others. The members  
4 of the council are also active in conservation  
5 by taking part in many conservation camps  
6 across the state and across the country as well  
7 as participating in Envirothon.

8 The mission of the Governor's Youth  
9 Council is to help enlist a new generation of  
10 individuals committed to protecting, promoting  
11 and enhancing the outdoor heritage of the  
12 Commonwealth. Additionally, we are responsible  
13 for understanding the working order of the  
14 state's natural resource agencies, the  
15 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

16 In September of 2004, the Governor's Youth  
17 Council held a three-day business retreat with  
18 the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in  
19 Carlisle, where the Council learned many of the  
20 specifics of the agency. A few of the things  
21 we learned about were the organizational  
22 structure of the agency, the educational  
23 programs and services of the commission, and  
24 that the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

1 is responsible for managing fish, amphibians,  
2 reptiles and their habitats.

3 We also discussed their funding sources  
4 and discovered that the majority of their  
5 revenue comes from fishing license sales and  
6 federal aid provided by the U.S. Fish and  
7 Wildlife Service. During the meeting the  
8 council discussed the challenges of recruiting  
9 and retaining anglers, especially pertaining to  
10 youth, and then brainstormed ideas that would  
11 combat the challenges.

12 That weekend was the first time in history  
13 of the council that so much time was spent at  
14 once focusing on one agency. After much  
15 discussion, the Governor's Youth Council  
16 determined that new and expanded efforts were  
17 necessary to target youth, and that doing so  
18 would require more funds than are currently  
19 being spent on youth. We felt that the  
20 importance of such efforts required the  
21 investment of new revenue, because taking money  
22 away from current programs and services, or  
23 cutting them all together, would undermine the  
24 entire goal of involving more youth.

1           Since the meeting in September of 2004,  
2           the Governor's Youth Council has continually  
3           discussed the challenges of involving youth in  
4           fishing, and repeatedly has determined a  
5           solution could be found by expanding current  
6           youth programs and by creating new ones.

7           MASTER PITCAIRN: The Governor's Youth  
8           Council believes that youth of the state are  
9           willing and able to invest in the future of  
10          fishing. These investments would be relatively  
11          inexpensive compared to other popular teen  
12          entertainment, and they must be convenient. We  
13          believe that any funds collected should be  
14          directed towards new and expanded youth  
15          programs.

16          National and state research, as well as  
17          GYC surveys indicate the number one reason why  
18          youth and adults aren't fishing more often is  
19          due to lack of time, not the cost of the  
20          activity. We should not be concerned about the  
21          youth fishing license, we should be concerned  
22          about losing youth fishing in the outdoor  
23          heritage.

24          MASTER ADAMS: Due to the stimulating

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1 nature of today's entertainment, such as video  
2 games and movies, we have to find new,  
3 innovating and appealing ways to introduce our  
4 youth to the joys of fishing. And that is  
5 something that is needed to fund these programs  
6 and services to make them attractive to today's  
7 youth and show them that fishing is worthy of  
8 their time.

9 The GYC has discussed at length, and voted  
10 to support the concept of a youth fishing  
11 license as a way for youth and adults to invest  
12 in the future of fishing.

13 We, also, have provided written and verbal  
14 testimony at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat  
15 meeting, as well as the Pennsylvania  
16 Sportsmen's Clubs conventions and other  
17 gatherings on this topic.

18 As a council, we all love to fish and we  
19 want to keep fishing alive. And we believe  
20 that this license increase -- this license will  
21 increase participation by supporting programs  
22 and youth education which, in turn, will  
23 preserve our fishing heritage.

24 MISS SAGER: As representatives of the

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1 Governor's Youth Council, we are here this  
2 evening to thank those of you who made a  
3 commitment to the future of fishing by  
4 introducing this important piece of legislation  
5 and to encourage the rest of Legislature to  
6 support House Bill 1436.

7 Thank you very much.

8 And right now we would like to show you a  
9 video that the Governor's Youth Council, along  
10 with the Governor's Advisor on Hunting, Fishing  
11 and Conservation produced.

12 (Whereupon, the following was  
13 stenographically recorded from  
14 the videotaped presentation.)

15 "ERIN BARNES: From the sultry scenes, the  
16 kids fishing in the streams.

17 "November 18th, the fathers and daughters,  
18 mothers and sons, Fish and Boat Commission  
19 believe that fishing brings family and friends  
20 together.

21 "Hi, I am Erin Barnes, a member of the  
22 Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing  
23 and Conservation. The youth council is  
24 designed to create a form for sessions about

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1 natural resources and outdoor recreation from a  
2 young persons perspective.

3 "We're a diverse group of conservation  
4 minded people. We meet with representatives  
5 from state conservation and outdoor recreation  
6 agencies to hear the concerns about youth  
7 related programs and issues. We, in turn, give  
8 them our ideas and help. For example, we  
9 conducted surveys about adolescent recreational  
10 activities and opinions, the staffed booths at  
11 special events like Earth day and the  
12 Pennsylvania Elk Expo, we participate in  
13 organized events to learn and share skills and  
14 we provided lawmakers and commissioners with  
15 the comments of natural resources and its  
16 importance to young people.

17 "Our mission is to help enlist a new  
18 generation of individuals committed to  
19 protecting, promoting, enhancing and enjoying  
20 the outdoor caretaking of the Commonwealth.

21 "Fishing is a significant part of  
22 Pennsylvania's heritage, but fishing is losing  
23 its teenage perspective in Pennsylvania.

24 Recent studies show a decline in youth fishing



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1 participation despite everyone's efforts to get  
2 them involved.

3 "The number one reason why kids and adults  
4 don't fish is lack of time. We see activities  
5 like teen sports, special activities like  
6 parties and going to the movies for the young  
7 peoples leisure time. With all their video  
8 games, iPods and reality TV, are kids even  
9 interested in fishing? It turns out that the  
10 answer is, yes. A strong majority of kids are  
11 interested in fishing. 75 percent of youth who  
12 have fished in the last year said that they  
13 would like to fish more than they currently do.  
14 The interest is there.

15 "Fishing may seem like an old fashioned  
16 way to spend time, but that is its charm to  
17 experience the outdoors, to connect with  
18 friends and share a laugh.

19 "The single most important reason why  
20 young people said they go fishing is to have  
21 fun and be with friends and family.

22 "Whether you fish from a grassy bank, from  
23 a boat on a peaceful lake or cast a fly into  
24 the tumbling waters of a trout stream, the

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1 thrill of landing a big one or telling stories  
2 about the one that got away are engraved in  
3 American cultures.

4 "What can we do to motivate and encourage  
5 more kids to drop their video games and iPods  
6 and gather in the great outdoors and cast a  
7 line into a stream?

8 "There is some existing programs that do  
9 get teenagers involved in the outdoors. The  
10 commission currently partners with state and  
11 county parks, schools, scout troops, sportsmen  
12 clubs and other organizations to offer programs  
13 like smart angler clubs, family fishing events,  
14 youth field days and tackle water sites all  
15 over the state. More enthusiastic teen anglers  
16 can choose from several different fishing camps  
17 or clubs that can become expanding fishing  
18 skills and knowledge of aquatic ecology and  
19 fisheries management.

20 "The commission wants to expand and enact  
21 new ideas to encourage kids to get out and cast  
22 their lines in the water. Ideas like grants to  
23 clubs and organizations with innovated youth  
24 programs so that they can expand their

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1 outreach, funding to set up a larger network of  
2 fishing funds just for kids with outing and  
3 fishing lessons from homegrown experts,  
4 training workshops that empathize best  
5 practices and resources available to adult  
6 leaders of programs for young people,  
7 promotional materials that appeal to kids and  
8 remind them that fishing is a great way to hang  
9 out with their friends. Equipment and  
10 materials for youth fishing that include  
11 discussions of conservation issues and special  
12 use oriented events with cook-outs and games,  
13 which add another recreational and social  
14 elements to the fishing experience.

15 "But, because the Fish and Boat Commission  
16 receives no money from the state's general  
17 fund, all of the activities, like educational  
18 programs, hatcheries, stock games, research and  
19 conservation are funded from the sale of  
20 fishing licenses, boat registrations and money  
21 from the U.S. Fish and Wild Life Service. The  
22 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission can't do  
23 much more with its available revenue. Any  
24 increase and support to efforts geared toward

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1 kids would take away dollars from existing  
2 programs. No one wants to divert dollars from  
3 current activities.

4 "A youth fishing license is being proposed  
5 as a new way of creating new revenue industry  
6 to fund new programs and ideas. Adding a  
7 license fee may seem to sound like a hinderance  
8 to increasing youth participation, but because  
9 the fee will be low, especially when compared  
10 to the movies, electronics and amusement parks,  
11 ability to use the extra funds to design  
12 kid-friendly programs and events more than  
13 offsets the cost to young anglers. Plus, a  
14 youth license will help the commission leverage  
15 additional funding from the Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service. As an added boost to youth programs,  
17 supporters of a junior fishing license and the  
18 commission would like to see all revenue from  
19 the license dedicated to new programs  
20 specifically targeted at our young people.

21 "In addition, waterways conservation  
22 officers will use encounters with the  
23 unlicensed kids as opportunities to inform them  
24 about the benefits of the junior license, where

1 the funds go and how to obtain a license.

2 "The Governor's Youth Council fully  
3 supports the junior fishing license as a way to  
4 bring young people to our creeks and rivers.  
5 Fishing is fun. It is a way to be outside in  
6 natural surroundings with family and friends.  
7 Fishing is a lifetime sport. Participation  
8 isn't dependant on belonging to a club, joining  
9 a team or paying costly rental fees. Spend as  
10 much or as little as you like on equipment.  
11 Grab your rod and hit the stream. You will be  
12 surrounded by major fresh air and, maybe,  
13 another angler or two. We want to make sure  
14 that the future of fishing in Pennsylvania is  
15 filled with kids and their families.

16 "A nominal junior fishing license will  
17 help the Fish and Boat Commission toward that  
18 goal. Let's face it, too much time in front of  
19 a TV or playing video games is a leading factor  
20 for child obesity and juvenile diabetes. By  
21 funding these creative efforts that reach out  
22 to young people, they will be contributing to a  
23 healthier outdoors experience and making  
24 anglers out of a new generation.

1           "Additional information about youth  
2           fishing programs and the junior license  
3           proposal can be found at the commission's Web  
4           site [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us).

5           "The Fish and Boat Commission urges you to  
6           contact them with your thoughts and ideas about  
7           expansion of youth fishing programs. You are,  
8           also, encourage to write your state  
9           representative or senators, and tell them of  
10          the importance of getting kids fishing and  
11          keeping them fishing.

12          "A junior fishing license is an investment  
13          in the future of fishing."

14                         (Whereupon, that concludes the  
15                         videotape.)

16          CHAIRMAN STABACK: That was very good. I  
17          certainly want to thank you for all your  
18          testimony, and each of you did a good job of  
19          explaining and exactly what we need to get more  
20          young people involved in the sport of fishing  
21          as we know it.

22                 I have a question for you now, you can  
23          answer it, either, individually or if you have  
24          -- any one of you designated as spokesperson,

1           that is okay, too.

2                        Would you tell the Committee about the  
3           people that you know and socialize with and of  
4           the friends that you have, how many of them are  
5           involved in fishing now, and those that are, is  
6           this fishing limited to just an open day of the  
7           trout season or the bass season, or are they  
8           involved starting with the trout season, going  
9           into the summer fishing, and then into the ice  
10          fishing as well; can you tell me?

11                    MASTER ADAMS:  For me, personally, I, kind  
12          of, introduced most of my friends into fishing.  
13          So, I, kind of, introduced all my friends,  
14          male, female, and every friend that I have will  
15          buy a licence and have that for the whole year.  
16          We do not just fish on opening day.

17                    MASTER PITCAIRN:  All the friends that I  
18          have, only, maybe, about two go fishing,  
19          because around where I live, there aren't many  
20          opportunities, and those that do said that they  
21          would fish all year round.

22                    MISS SAGER:  Many of the friends that I  
23          know, when they do fish, are few and far  
24          between.  There are, maybe, one or two

1 acquaintances that I have that fish. I have  
2 tried to take my friends fishing, but due to  
3 time, it is very hard to get them out.  
4 However, I have taken them fishing. The  
5 friends and acquaintances that I know that do  
6 fish, I assume that she does fish year round.

7 However, I would like to take as many  
8 friends that I could possibly fit in a car or  
9 bus fishing, but I do not have the resources to  
10 do so.

11 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Tell me, do you think  
12 that the friends that you have that don't fish  
13 could be persuaded to get involved if they  
14 understood those programs of the Fish and Boat  
15 Commission intend to develop, as well as the  
16 money that is from the sale of a junior fishing  
17 license?

18 MISS SAGER: I believe that the friends of  
19 mine that don't fish would be very excited to  
20 try all these new things. I have talked and I  
21 have asked them if they ever want to go  
22 fishing, and their response is, for the most  
23 part, oh, I always wanted to do that. And I  
24 am, like, all right; and we try to figure out a



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1 place to go and a time to go, but it is very  
2 hard with everyone's schedule. But if there  
3 were opportunities that they could go on  
4 weekends or I could tell them, hey, go here on  
5 such-and-such a day, I am sure that they would  
6 be jumping up and down to go.

7 CHAIRMAN STABACK: What do you think of  
8 those programs that we are eluding to, that  
9 could be stressed that, in your opinion, would  
10 have a tendency to bring more young people in  
11 sport fishing?

12 MISS SAGER: I am aware of what your  
13 program is called, but I just thought a program  
14 where it could take a few or as many kids  
15 fishing, out fishing on a daily basis where it  
16 would, pretty much, do just every weekend, have  
17 a place where they could go and fish rather  
18 than spending it inside.

19 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay.

20 MASTER ADAMS: Also, I was going to say,  
21 in my area, a lot of kids don't know where to  
22 fish or the opportunities. If they put a  
23 little bit more advertisements in my area --  
24 most parents that I talked don't know where to

1 take their kids fishing and haven't heard of  
2 anywhere that they could fish. It is just a  
3 lack of knowledge, I would say.

4 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. Chairman Rohrer.

5 MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: Thank you. You  
6 people did a good job.

7 I guess the challenge that is before us in  
8 the state, and whether it is fishing or  
9 hunting, is the competition, that it seems,  
10 with all the other activities. So, I am glad  
11 that you are, kind of, doing these things in  
12 the area.

13 It is just a question but, who introduced  
14 you to fishing and hunting, your parents,  
15 somebody else or, how did that start for you?

16 MISS SAGER: For me it started by my  
17 entire family. In my family, a lot of the  
18 women hunt rather than the men. But, fishing  
19 and hunting were introduced to me by my  
20 parents, my grandparents and uncles and  
21 everybody in my family.

22 MASTER ADAMS: Also, for me, my family  
23 introduced me to fishing. I can remember,  
24 then, hunting was actually an uncle of mine

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1 that got me introduced.

2 MASTER PITCAIRN: It was, mostly, my dad  
3 that introduced me to fishing at a very young  
4 age. I started when I was five, and started  
5 when I was one, too.

6 MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: In the friends  
7 that you have encouraged to get involved, do  
8 they come from homes where their parents have  
9 hunted, or are they brand new to the sport?

10 MASTER ADAMS: They are brand new to the  
11 sport. Like he said, they just don't have no  
12 knowledge, they don't know of its existence.

13 MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: That is good  
14 peer pressure then. Good job. Thank you.  
15 That is all I have.

16 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Gergely.

17 REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: Thank you, Mr.  
18 Chairman. And congratulations to you kids, you  
19 have wonderful knowledge and I must say, you  
20 are incredibly impressive.

21 I noted to the members that there was a  
22 message in the video that some of the kids had  
23 cell phones on kids belts. You speak of  
24 technology and what drives youth anymore.

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1           But, you know, what does \$5 buy you guys;  
2           it is the cost of a line when you turn to  
3           fishing? Do you think it is a big deal asking  
4           on our part, five bucks; what do you spend five  
5           bucks on?

6           MASTER PITCAIRN: I spend five bucks on  
7           school lunch.

8           MASTER ADAMS: You can't even go to the  
9           movies for five bucks. So, I say, yeah, I  
10          barely spend \$5.

11          MASTER PITCAIRN: \$5 is a meal at an  
12          average restaurant.

13          REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: So, to you the  
14          cost isn't significant?

15          MASTER PITCAIRN: Yeah. I could  
16          definitely sacrifice a meal.

17          REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: I want to  
18          appreciate to the members, when you see the  
19          video, it is often 12 to 15 year olds, so, we  
20          are not targeting every single person, and,  
21          really, we are looking at the one group that  
22          they are already buying licenses anyway, 12 to  
23          15 year olds.

24          Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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1           CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative

2           Denlinger.

3           REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Thank you, Mr.

4           Chairman and thank you to each of you, it was

5           very well done.

6           Just curious, as you interact with people

7           your age and try to encourage them to do all

8           the things that you talked about, for how many

9           of them, and I guess thinking about programs

10          here that the Commission would come up with,

11          for how many of them not having a rod and

12          tackle box is one of the reasons they would say

13          to you, I don't think that we are going to go

14          this week; is that a common response?

15          MISS SAGER: I guess it would be a common

16          response. Oh, yes, I have been fishing before.

17          But in most cases, they have never even gone

18          fishing and they assume that none of them have

19          a fishing rod or tackle. So...

20          MASTER ADAMS: I would say that goes

21          hand-in-hand with not knowing where to go

22          fishing. I don't have a rod; I don't know

23          where to go; it just adds up. It is too

24          difficult.

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1           MASTER PITCAIRN:  Pretty much is what they  
2           say, but about 75 percent of the people, of my  
3           friends that I do talk to, do have a rod and  
4           some do not have a rod.  More than 75 percent  
5           that I have talked to don't have a rod.  They  
6           really don't have the equipment.

7           REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY:  So, I am  
8           gathering that any activity, that aspect of it,  
9           as one those small things the Commission could  
10          do, if they had a rod available, that kids  
11          would attempt to get people introduced to it;  
12          the up front cost is fairly low, but that is  
13          something that the people have to do?

14          MISS SAGER:  Exactly.  So...

15          CHAIRMAN STABACK:  Any more questions?

16          My compliments, personal compliments in  
17          the manner in which you have presented your  
18          testimony.  I think that Governor Rendell would  
19          be very proud of you and the caliber of his  
20          youth council.

21          Once again, thank you so much for being  
22          here tonight.  You are excused.

23          MISS SAGER:  Thank you.

24          CHAIRMAN STABACK:  Our next testifier is

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1 Mr. Ken Undercoffer, the president of  
2 Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited.

3 Ken, thank you for being here.

4 MR. UNDERCOFFER: Well, thank you very  
5 much for giving me the opportunity to testify  
6 before the Council, I really appreciate it.

7 My name is Ken Undercoffer and I am the  
8 president of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout  
9 Unlimited, and we are also known as PA Trout.  
10 We are affiliated with a national organization,  
11 which, currently, has over 150,000 members.  
12 Pennsylvania Council for Trout Unlimited  
13 represents, approximately, 12,000 members from  
14 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

15 PA Trout has already expressed its support  
16 for the proposal to establish new fishing  
17 license in Pennsylvania with the proviso that  
18 the funds generated will be funds solely to  
19 educating youth about conservation.

20 Support from youth license in Pennsylvania  
21 Trout has been substantial, but not enough.  
22 Some chapters and members, especially those in  
23 the north central counties, have been opposed.  
24 They felt that the initial financial burden on

1 low income families might prevent some youths  
2 from purchasing a license. If the proposal  
3 passes, many members of our chapter will try  
4 and help these individuals who cannot afford  
5 the cost of a license and actually subsidize  
6 the purchase of a license. However, we must  
7 enter a provision be made to the legislation to  
8 provide licenses to needy youths who want to  
9 fish that cannot afford the price of a license.

10 Last year many young people seemed to have  
11 lost interest in fishing and other outdoor  
12 activities. It seems to be to many other  
13 attractions today.

14 If we are to continue to have a vigorous  
15 angler heritage in Pennsylvania, we must find  
16 ways to get kids to go fishing, and this takes  
17 money. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
18 and the FPC has been generous with their  
19 support of the Pennsylvania Trout, and helps  
20 support the heritage partnership managed by  
21 Pennsylvania Trout for the DCNR.

22 Now, the heritage program provides small  
23 grants, up to \$5000 for thousands of our  
24 Pennsylvanians for the best of Pennsylvania's



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1 wild trout stream, thus assuring the  
2 preservation of protection for the future  
3 generation of kids like these that sat here.

4 PFBC also provides strong support for a  
5 strong community of a series of conferences  
6 over the years at Penn State to communicate the  
7 importance of preserving and protecting our  
8 cold water resources. This conference is just  
9 not about trout, but about all the other  
10 features, which is the cold water streams and  
11 streams zoned cold watersheds. The eighth  
12 conference this year will be held in February  
13 of 2008.

14 Trout Unlimited began a program called,  
15 Trout in the Classroom, a few years ago. It  
16 began by a teacher, a biology teacher, and the  
17 associated equipment purchased was set up in  
18 the school classroom. The trial equipment  
19 hatched in the aquarium. A hatched trout are  
20 nurtured in the classroom that reached primary  
21 size and then released into a nearby stream.  
22 During the process of raising these trout,  
23 students are instructed about the biology of  
24 trout and the ecology of cold water streams and

1 all the creatures that live there.

2 This has been an extremely popular program  
3 and it is rapidly expanding all over the U.S.  
4 and in Pennsylvania. A typical set up costs  
5 about \$1000. Many new chapters are stepping up  
6 to the plate and supporting the purchase and  
7 needed equipment.

8 The program has become so popular and  
9 helped train, that the Pennsylvania Fish and  
10 Boat Commission has decided to partner with  
11 Trout Unlimited and hire a PA coordinator for  
12 the program. All these good things require  
13 funding; stuff doesn't come for nothing.  
14 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has been  
15 very generous, but it depends mostly on the  
16 sale of fishing license to fund many of these  
17 wonderful programs.

18 A youth license does not provide the  
19 resources needed to get our kids away from the  
20 TV, their computers and back into the outdoors.  
21 The PA Council of Trout Unlimited has  
22 established a youth fishing license because it  
23 couldn't provide badly needed funding to  
24 educate our young people about conservation and

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1 the wonderful experience of fishing for trout  
2 and other game and fishing licenses.

3 Thank you gentleman. Questions?

4 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Ken, I have a question  
5 about comments you referred about your  
6 membership. Can you talk just a little bit  
7 more about the negative comments that you have  
8 been receiving, and what?

9 MR. UNDERCOFFER: There haven't been a  
10 lot, but a small percentage.

11 CHAIRMAN STABACK: What?

12 MR. UNDERCOFFER: I think when we had the  
13 vote, there were 12 members of the executive  
14 committee present and voted and one was --  
15 objected to it, because just what I think that  
16 I eluded to in the statement, there will be  
17 kids out there that can't afford it, \$5 is a  
18 lot of money. I find that a little hard to  
19 grasp, because the kids that were here earlier  
20 said that five bucks doesn't buy a lot of  
21 things these days, and a fishing license isn't  
22 a lot of money.

23 And a lot of the chapters said, well, if  
24 kids come to us and say they can't afford it,

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1 maybe we will kick in the five bucks.

2 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. So that seems --

3 MR. UNDERCOFFER: That seems to be it.

4 CHAIRMAN STABACK: The cost of the license  
5 itself?

6 MR. UNDERCOFFER: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Would a lesser license  
8 fee, do you think, change their view in any  
9 way?

10 MR. UNDERCOFFER: Well, I would be  
11 guessing, but \$5 is what we are talking about,  
12 I can't imagine lowing it below that would make  
13 much of a difference.

14 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Who eluded to the fact  
15 that there wasn't a lot of people that offered  
16 an opinion, only opposed it; how big a  
17 conference did you have in terms of members?

18 MR. UNDERCOFFER: Well, we have 12,000  
19 members. I had one charter president call me  
20 and complain about it and one of our executive  
21 committee, all the other chapters didn't  
22 respond or certainly didn't respond negative.  
23 Most negative -- anything that you have when  
24 you have 12,000 members, not everybody is going

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1 to agree, it would be a miracle.

2 CHAIRMAN STABACK: But, then, it really  
3 wouldn't be fair to say that the organization  
4 was for or really against the proposal with  
5 that many members out there and so little of  
6 them responding.

7 MR. UNDERCOFFER: I usually find that if  
8 they are opposed to something, they let me  
9 know.

10 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Well, we have to  
11 presume that they support it.

12 MR. UNDERCOFFER: Very much, yeah. I  
13 think that a majority, a strong majority, not  
14 everyone did. And the biggest objection is  
15 this, they want to be sure that the legislation  
16 could provide for that. If you can, please do.

17 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative  
18 McGeehan.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MCGEEHAN: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Chairman, and thank you Mr. Undercoffer for  
21 your testimony, and it greatly encourages the  
22 support of this bill to have the support of the  
23 PA Council and Trout Unlimited, which is well  
24 respected fishing groups and long established

1 fishing groups in the Commonwealth and the  
2 country, and it means a lot to have the support  
3 of you and Trout Unlimited and your entire  
4 council.

5 MR. UNDERCOFFER: Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MCGEEHAN: I was struck by  
7 a question that Chairman Rohrer had raised, and  
8 I want to first recognize the fact that, you  
9 have singled out low income children, and a  
10 district you consider largely, because I  
11 represent a district in Philadelphia.

12 Chairman Rohrer had asked the young people  
13 in the Congress Council how they became  
14 acquainted with fishing, and all three of them  
15 said they became acquainted by relatives,  
16 whether a parent, an uncle and other family  
17 members, and they said they learned fishing  
18 from family, because someone from their family  
19 introduced them to fishing. Your point about  
20 low income children, that they don't have that  
21 kind of exposure. They don't have a parent who  
22 exposes them to the environment that you and I  
23 have been exposed to. That is why it is so  
24 important, in my opinion, that the Fish and

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1           Boat Commission could have that opportunity to  
2           be that father, to be that roll model, to be  
3           able to demonstrate that a youth should be  
4           involved in fishing.

5           Many of our youth, and you pointed out in  
6           your testimony, don't have access, which I  
7           think that this \$5 youth license fee will  
8           establish a system whereby we do introduce  
9           these kids to fishing. Many of these  
10          households -- I think the only alternative is  
11          to have this agency and this office introduce  
12          them to the wonderful sport.

13          And I thank you for acknowledging and  
14          having consideration for the low income  
15          children.

16          Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17          CHAIRMAN STABACK: I would like to take  
18          time to introduce a member from the  
19          Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission who is  
20          present with us tonight, in the likes of Mr.  
21          Richard Czop.

22          MR. CZOP: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, I  
23          am getting buzzed, as we all know the age of  
24          technology.

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1           If I could address this panel for about  
2           five minutes and, unfortunately, it is an  
3           emergency, and I hope that I can give some  
4           insight into some questions that you might ask  
5           the panel as we go. So, I apologize. If I can  
6           have five minutes, I would like to even  
7           question your individual, here. May I just put  
8           some points out that I would like to throw out?

9           CHAIRMAN STABACK: I have no objection to  
10          you taking the stand.

11          MR. CZOP: You can swear me in right now.  
12          I am telling you where I came from originally.

13          CHAIRMAN STABACK: But I do have two  
14          members who want to pose questions to Mr.  
15          Undercoffer.

16          MR. CZOP: I would ask you for about three  
17          minutes, Mr. Chairman, if you would?

18          CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay.

19          MR. CZOP: Gentlemen and ladies, I just  
20          say from District 8, as you know the commission  
21          is split up in several districts. You can look  
22          over at Dr. Ross, who is a member and who is  
23          with us, because he wasn't aware where I am  
24          going with this.



1           Melody Zullinger, PA Federation of  
2           Sportsmen's Clubs and youth fishing license,  
3           and Dr. Austen did talk me into voting for, not  
4           the license, but for you representatives. I  
5           would like the legislation to turn around and  
6           do this, but I have not heard, here -- I would  
7           like the youngsters, whether they sat down at  
8           Frankford Arsenal, Representative McGeehan's  
9           area, and saw some green, and like several  
10          other people and I have in this area, we have  
11          the most per capita individuals here, and some  
12          of the poorest areas here. It is the only  
13          thing, I think, that is great factfinding, and  
14          what I am really a little bit upset about, as a  
15          Commissioner from the Pennsylvania Fish and  
16          Boat Commission who voted to be of this  
17          Commission, but do not think that I agree with  
18          this or disagree with this, I want to see the  
19          factfinding report, gentlemen, at this point.

20                 What I am a little disappointed in, is  
21                 that no one knows what happens to Frankford  
22                 Arsenal. Tell me. Come on, we are all going  
23                 fishing tomorrow.

24                 Gentlemen, I am sorry if I cut it short, I

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1 got paged. I do this out of passion, so I am  
2 going to speak, because I am boiling back here.  
3 That presentation is not from the commission.  
4 That is from somebody who wants to sell you.

5 Now, what I would like you to do is go  
6 down to Frankford Arsenal access.

7 Representative McGeehan has to be elected  
8 every two years -- and that is where you  
9 gentlemen -- and thank you very much, Michael,  
10 you know how bipartisan that I am -- and you  
11 just don't know.

12 I would like to ask these youngsters to  
13 turn around and ask how many people have gone  
14 through and asked some of the poor people from  
15 Philadelphia, Pittsburg where they go? I will  
16 vote for this if you show me -- you are from  
17 Trout Unlimited, how much money you put back?

18 Please, gentlemen, before I leave, ask  
19 them how much money our parents can take for  
20 the poor in our cities in Pittsburg and  
21 Philadelphia, because the greatest, fondest  
22 memories that I had was Mr. Beers voting the  
23 Advisory Board.

24 Before I leave, ladies and gentlemen, is

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1 the day that we got to pave down the Frankford  
2 Arsenal. A lot of people are here and who  
3 aren't here helped us and, thank you very much,  
4 guys, we got it paved. He will tell you  
5 (indicating), old people down there fishing,  
6 middle people, husbands and wives in front of  
7 their children, kids -- when you have  
8 prostitution and drugs up the street, kids are  
9 down there fishing, learning how to put a worm  
10 on.

11 That is what I am doing this for, guys and  
12 girls, not for five bucks. You show me that, I  
13 will -- and you got my vote.

14 And the thing that is a problem that I  
15 have here is knowing that everything is  
16 orchestrated. And, Ed, forgive me.

17 So, I would just say this, do not -- prove  
18 to me that we have -- it is not -- these young  
19 people that have put forth their best effort is  
20 great, but you know what, you guys -- and  
21 Governor Curtin, after the Civil War -- it is  
22 the oldest environmental agency in the United  
23 States, and I am a Civil War buff and I am very  
24 proud to be a member.

1           But I will tell you this, at this point, I  
2           would like to know what witnesses are coming up  
3           here, and tell me what type of background visit  
4           my district of eight counties or nine counties  
5           and say how many kids are fishing, and why?  
6           And this representative right here, Mr.  
7           McGeehan, represent our government.

8           You all come from -- and I lived in  
9           Huntingdon County all of my life, and I know  
10          some substitute some sports -- the youngsters,  
11          here, have the ability that I have to give to  
12          my kids, and I only ask that you look at this  
13          before you do this. It may be a great idea if  
14          they are willing to put up and ante up or  
15          substitute.

16          Mr. Chairman, and I will say this, if that  
17          is what happens in this Commissioner's eyes  
18          from the able counties, I want to know who is  
19          going to pay for the single family households  
20          that Representative McGeehan and myself  
21          represent?

22          With that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you very  
23          much for your time, and if there is any  
24          questions, real quick, you can tell I am there.

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1 Thank you, Ed.

2 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. Commissioner,  
3 you made your point; thank you.

4 Representative Denlinger.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your testimony.

7 Just thinking about this, and I, kind of,  
8 want to get back to Chairman Staback's  
9 impression of some of the objections that have  
10 been raised within your organization. I am  
11 wondering, you know, we talked a little about  
12 \$5 and I think that \$5 is significant after  
13 all, but beyond that, my family and I live in a  
14 fairly rural area, and we are blessed that way,  
15 and I realize that urban zones -- and that is  
16 represented as well, but as a father of three  
17 boys who are teenagers at this point, I will  
18 often come home from a workday and say, what  
19 did you do today, guys; and surprisingly they  
20 would say, well, we jumped on our bikes and  
21 went down the stream and went fishing. And,  
22 you know -- which is great. I think that is  
23 wonderful. That is the way that I grew up, and  
24 I am glad they are growing up the same way.

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1           The presence of the licenses, it wouldn't  
2           be, for me as a dad, so much as the money, but  
3           as a hassle. And I am wondering, you know,  
4           they just go and do that. Sometimes they do it  
5           with me; sometimes they just jump on their bike  
6           and go alone. Did the hassle factor enter into  
7           the discussion with Trout Unlimited; nobody  
8           say, well, parents will just view this as  
9           another headache?

10           MR. UNDERCOFFER: I don't remember,  
11           specifically, that it did, but more about the  
12           money. Perhaps that is a common -- people do  
13           worry about being hassled by the government,  
14           but you don't know.

15           REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Not so much by  
16           the -- that they have to run to another sport  
17           and file for a license every year, that has to  
18           be done; does that discourage youths?

19           MR. UNDERCOFFER: No. I don't think that  
20           is the main problem. Most of it is the money  
21           and the idea that they are going to be -- that  
22           factors in there to some degree.

23           As far as kids have to buy a hunting  
24           license, they did that when I was a kid. I

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1 remember my dad, when I was 13, he took me to  
2 the hardware store to buy my first hunting  
3 license and man, I thought that was a great  
4 time. At that time, I think it was a full  
5 license. I don't remember a junior license  
6 when I was a kid.

7 So, it is just something new, and people,  
8 when there is something new, there are people  
9 that object to that.

10 But we have to find funding. Trout  
11 Unlimited, we take kids out fishing and I,  
12 personally, demonstrated that we have rods that  
13 we buy and take kids out, take them fishing,  
14 fly fishing, typically, and they love it. But  
15 all of these things take some funding. And we  
16 provide them with lunch.

17 So, the Commissioner's comment, we've been  
18 doing this for years, taking kids out for years  
19 and teaching the kids how to fish, how to fly  
20 fish. We take them out and they take nets and  
21 catch insects. I think that we have done a  
22 wonderful job.

23 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Well said.

24 Thank you.

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1           CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Gergely.

2           REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: Thank you very  
3 much for addressing the Committee. Like  
4 Michael -- Representative McGeehan, I am from a  
5 very urban area outside of Pittsburg, but I  
6 have been doing this sport since I have been  
7 13. I am an original member to play  
8 Pennsylvania little league and youth and  
9 chairperson 25 years ago; that is a long way  
10 back.

11           I want to make sure that, like you, the  
12 moneys are available for youth and urban and  
13 rural. When, you know, I hear testifiers, I  
14 see, to you, and I see the Sportsmen's Clubs  
15 and numerous events on the Web site, they have  
16 trout fishing and outline a lot of county and  
17 they have a lot of youth events. We need, not  
18 just in the suburban areas in Allegheny County,  
19 but anywhere else in the state, I don't know  
20 that we provide for the opportunity to get out  
21 as much as we could when we have three rivers  
22 and great resources in Allegheny County, and we  
23 need to have more family ties. We have great  
24 groups like yours, and I do believe, as you



1           said, \$5 isn't a big thing to ask.

2           When you say a hassle, remember the hassle  
3           isn't just over the cost. I have hassles over  
4           a Social Security being required and other  
5           issues. My question is, when we did the  
6           fishing license increase, was support a  
7           consideration for the poor for fishing license;  
8           did you take a position on that effect?

9           MR. UNDERCOFFER: I think so, but I am not  
10          sure. I think that we did, and that was a few  
11          years ago.

12          REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: How would you  
13          propose the underprivileged, the kid that is  
14          interested?

15          MR. UNDERCOFFER: Well, work with groups  
16          like Trout Unlimited and come up a program  
17          where we -- and we want to help some of these  
18          kids, but I don't want to help kids that don't  
19          need help. We got plenty that need help.

20          But, Mr. Chairman, let's open this  
21          discussion up before we vote on this thing.  
22          Several of the chapters, we will be glad to  
23          supply fishing license for some of the kids.  
24          So, work with us. We work with the fish

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1 commission. We go out and do those fishery  
2 things and take corporates with us. So, it  
3 could be done.

4 REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Keller.

6 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 As I read through the bill, we have had  
9 some discussion, here, on those that could not  
10 possibly afford the fee, and I see a part of  
11 the bill addresses the no-fee license which,  
12 the executive director who makes the decisions,  
13 whether or not fees are to be charged and  
14 requirements, maybe we need to establish  
15 something there? As I read further into it, it  
16 is for educational programs and your outlook  
17 with a biologist on a field project and those  
18 types of things that the 12 through 15 are not  
19 eligible and do not need to obtain a fishing  
20 license to do that. So, I am wondering if we,  
21 maybe, ought not to address that issue in that  
22 particular piece of the legislation that -- if  
23 the executive director would sit down and  
24 decide that a family or a person in that family

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1 did not have income for that \$5, maybe put an  
2 amendment in there. We already have a pardon  
3 in the bill, it doesn't go quite far enough as  
4 the concern to the Commission. So, I am  
5 thinking that, more or less a statement than a  
6 question, just to bring that to the attention  
7 of the members.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN STABACK: No other questions?  
10 Ken, thank you so much for being here, for your  
11 testimony and all it does in promoting fishing  
12 among our adults. Thank you for being here.

13 MR. UNDERCOFFER: Thank you for having me.

14 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Our next speaker is  
15 Miss Jean Wallace, she is the academic director  
16 from Green Woods Charter School, here, in  
17 Philadelphia. Miss Wallace has a great amount  
18 of the experience in implementing programs and  
19 House Bill 1436.

20 Thank you for being here. It is my  
21 pleasure and you can start your testimony  
22 whenever you are ready, Ma'am.

23 MS. WALLACE: Thank you. Thank you  
24 gentlemen, for inviting me.

1           As each of you know, with the, No Child  
2           Left Behind Act, putting so much pressure on  
3           us, and certainly my intention for education  
4           and such as this are important as they allow us  
5           to exchange ideas drawn on education and  
6           experience and provide insight and direction  
7           into how important successful partnerships are  
8           to support the education of our students and  
9           children.

10           I am sure that you are aware that this, No  
11           Child Left Behind Act, is in the process of  
12           being amended and in recognizing the unforeseen  
13           value of, No Child Left Behind, and I am also  
14           here as someone who knows the, No Child Left  
15           Behind, and I am grateful for the opportunity  
16           to share with you just a brief summary of the  
17           innovative work we are doing in education and  
18           charter schools, and to share with this  
19           Committee what a valuable resource it has been  
20           to our teachers and students.

21           At our Green Woods Charter School, our 4th  
22           grade students are in a year-long study  
23           focusing on our local watershed. Throughout  
24           the year, concepts relating to history, ocean

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1 study, language arts, science and standard  
2 projects are helping to this study. From our  
3 4th grade and all students at Green Woods,  
4 their ongoing projects are not done just for  
5 the sake of just doing projects, but rather a  
6 project is a final step in a process that has  
7 clearly defined learning goals, which happen  
8 all along the way.

9 In the case of our watersheds, our  
10 students begin their journey in September and  
11 their learning ends well at Green Woods.

12 Green Woods Charter School is located on  
13 340 acres of land owned by the Schuylkill  
14 Center for Enviromental Education right here in  
15 Philadelphia.

16 We have the only public charter school in  
17 the entire country with a nature center.  
18 Smith's Run is a small stream which runs  
19 through the property, and the water flowing  
20 down Smith's Run eventually makes its way to  
21 the Schuylkill River.

22 Through an integrated teaching experience,  
23 our students learn the concept of a watershed  
24 by being part of the watershed. The watershed

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1 is truly real to them, because they are  
2 surrounded by the sights, the sounds and the  
3 smells of the river.

4 The watershed concept isn't a  
5 two-dimensional drawing in a textbook or even a  
6 three-dimensional model crafted of tinfoil,  
7 instead, there is the understanding of the  
8 watershed constructed for multi-learned  
9 experiences, starting from the ground up.

10 The Schuylkill Center and their educators  
11 are our partners in education. The center  
12 staff provides 1000 hours of instruction to our  
13 4th grade watershed students who get,  
14 approximately, 100 hours of expert teaching  
15 from these environmental educators who are  
16 certified anglers.

17 As a member of the Governor's Advisory  
18 Council for Environmental Education, I have  
19 been able to successfully partner with many of  
20 our state environmental agencies in order to  
21 tap into the wealth of knowledge and bring it  
22 to our schools. Among these agencies support  
23 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

24 Students and teachers are provided with an

1 extensive amount of free resources that come  
2 both directly and indirectly from the  
3 commission.

4 Whenever we call Carl Richardson and  
5 request information from his office, he always  
6 has the perfect resources to enhance  
7 participation from our audience.

8 At the charter school, we are forced to  
9 operate on a much lower level of funding than  
10 your typical public or private schools. Being  
11 asked to do more with less money only makes us  
12 more resourceful and determined to try to build  
13 a kind of partnership that will enhance our  
14 student learning.

15 Our teachers and students benefit from the  
16 Fish and Boat Commission not only through the  
17 sport fishing and resource education grants,  
18 but, also, from the many publications that we  
19 use to support our teaching and learning.

20 Throughout the watershed year, our  
21 students spend time discovering specific  
22 allocations of our native population. They  
23 come to understand how fish survive over the  
24 long winter months. They learn the reasons for

1 decline in the American shed population and  
2 discuss and debate, to dam or not to dam. They  
3 also adopted Pennsylvania native fish species,  
4 and why that species is endangered. And they  
5 get to know the law that is supported by our  
6 local wildlife. And students also come to  
7 understand the human impact on our streams and  
8 rivers through various forms of clean and  
9 non-clean pollution, as well as through the  
10 destruction of nonnative species to our water.

11 Our students discover, many for the first  
12 time ever, that there are some really awesome  
13 fish in our local streams, rivers and ponds.

14 And, finally, through in class and fun  
15 activities, our students not only commence with  
16 the natural world, but they learn about aquatic  
17 interests and receive instruction to fishing, a  
18 form of recreation and a concept to  
19 environmental storage shed.

20 Here is just a brief overview of our 4th  
21 grade watershed year. In September, the school  
22 year begins with the introduction to the stream  
23 habitat. During the fall months, the youths  
24 come to understand the stream that the habitat



1 for fish are essential to the plan. They begin  
2 to test the water in October. Several times  
3 during the year, the students revisit and  
4 conduct biological and chemical testing of the  
5 streams. The students record their data as  
6 they study the streams through the seasons,  
7 learning about the influence that weather  
8 related events can have on the quality of the  
9 water, as well as the impact on our native fish  
10 species. They also begin to think about what  
11 they can do to help to minimize this impact.

12 In November, our students begin to make a  
13 connection between the watershed and their  
14 place and time in it. Most exciting for them  
15 is when they begin their journey that takes  
16 them back in time to when tributaries were  
17 one. This is when they begin their studies of  
18 Native Americans and look at how Native  
19 Americans used their natural resources to  
20 provide food, shelter and clothing.

21 During December and January, experts come  
22 to bring wood to present to our students and  
23 share the knowledge of the history and science  
24 related to our watershed. The adults are

1        simply amazed at the questions our students  
2        have and the vast knowledge that they share.

3                The water never returns, though. We have  
4        plans for Smith's Run in February; our students  
5        have a great deal of planning to do for the  
6        restoration project in the spring.

7                In March, the students begin to prepare  
8        for the stream restoration project through  
9        discussions and simple land restoration  
10       manicure. It is, now, that they really come to  
11       understand the connection what lives in the  
12       streams and rivers and what they can do to help  
13       minimize the pollution and harm there may be.  
14       After all, they learn more about erosion, why  
15       the stream bank needs plants, what to remain or  
16       what to plant and, most importantly, they learn  
17       a connection between the streams in the woods  
18       and the water that comes out of their tap.  
19       They learn that by keeping the water clean for  
20       fish, they are also keeping the water clean for  
21       themselves.

22                In early May, students focus their efforts  
23        on removing garlic mustard and invasive plants  
24        in the restoration area.

1           On a beautiful spring morning in late May,  
2           the entire 4th grade turns out to plant plants  
3           on the banks of Smith's Run in the hope of  
4           stopping the bank from eroding into the stream,  
5           and as one student puts it, make it all mucky  
6           for fish.

7           So, not only do our streams and parks  
8           restore the habitat of Smith's Run, but they  
9           know why they are restoring the banks near the  
10          ponds. This is the ultimate topic kids are  
11          learning, environmental stewardship. Watching  
12          kids plant with a smile is all so rewarding.

13          And then, finally, a warm and sunny June  
14          morning, the 4th graders have a sign that  
15          simply reads, gone fishing.

16          They all work very hard; they deserve to  
17          have some fun. But at Green Woods Charter,  
18          learning always goes hand-in-hand as fishing  
19          trips to Wind Dance Pond is a stone's throw  
20          from Smith's Run, provides the basic connection  
21          for the watershed works. Each year is an  
22          annual event for our watershed works. Our  
23          students spend the day fishing at Wind Dance.  
24          They catch many healthy fish, identify them and

1           then toss them back. One student said it all  
2           when she said, maybe next year another 4th  
3           grader will catch this very same fish.

4           Our students watershed year teaches them  
5           that they are students of the land, and what  
6           happens to the land affects the life that lives  
7           in our streams and ponds. They now know that  
8           what they do and don't do can really make a  
9           difference.

10          As a public school, our curriculum must  
11          remain many academic standards and we must  
12          maintain AYP, Adequate Yearly Progress. We  
13          gain in AYP each year. Our school and our  
14          curriculum is certainly unique and successful,  
15          our charter standardized tests and local test  
16          scores and reports far exceed the local, state  
17          and national levels in all grades. Working  
18          directly with the Department of Education, we  
19          received exemplary status awards for our  
20          curriculum, and this past summer our 4th grade  
21          watershed program received the 2007 Governor's  
22          Award for Environmental Excellence. We were  
23          very excited; the secretary came to meet with  
24          us to present this award for our students.

1           A level of hardening going into this  
2 watershed deal would simply not be possible  
3 without the resources provided through the Fish  
4 and Boat Commission. The commission has been  
5 supporting the efforts of the Schulykill Center  
6 and other centers by helping integrate  
7 recreation and natural history into our  
8 curriculum. They have been doing outreach to  
9 schools for more than 50 years, trained more  
10 than 10,000 educators since 1991, and these  
11 educators use their materials with more than  
12 250,000 students each year. Because of the  
13 youth study in our curriculum, Green Woods may  
14 be able to continue to add resources, more than  
15 most schools.

16           A focus on funds from the commission would  
17 allow them to expand their efforts in a more  
18 sustainable way, making it possible for them to  
19 do more with so many schools throughout the  
20 state.

21           In conclusion, I would like to share with  
22 this Committee that, as an amphitheater and an  
23 administrator in a unique public school of our  
24 state, Green Woods Charter School doesn't have

1 to be so unique and we don't have to be the  
2 only ones teaching and learning to play. The  
3 Fish and Boat Commission and all of our state  
4 agencies can be a tremendous resource to all of  
5 our teachers and students. I am ensuring you  
6 that no child is left behind. By providing  
7 most schools with the opportunity to take full  
8 advantage of the resources offered by the Fish  
9 and Boat Commission, we will be able to make a  
10 real difference in the lives of children. We  
11 just need to think differently in our  
12 education, and we need to do it together.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Thank you so much for  
15 an excellent testimony.

16 Tell me, and share with the Committee,  
17 what is it like working with kids that are 12  
18 to 15 years of age?

19 MS. WALLACE: Well, unfortunately, I don't  
20 have the 15 year olds, they go to a different  
21 school. So, the kids that are -- we go up to  
22 13, as our 8th graders.

23 Being able to introduce kids to the  
24 natural world, starting in kindergarten, who,

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1           our kindergarteners don splash boots and go  
2           down to the stream and you spend 55 minutes  
3           doing time in the natural world is just an  
4           incredible opportunity for me.

5           Like I said, it is a charter school, too.  
6           We work on .80 cents on the dollar, so we have  
7           to build partnerships and state agencies and  
8           the Fish and Boat Commission have been  
9           extremely generous to us in providing the  
10          different kinds of materials that really  
11          enhance our kids learning.

12          CHAIRMAN STABACK: Tell me, is there  
13          anything specific that you need to do to appeal  
14          to that specific age group that you deal with?

15          MS. WALLACE: Well, a couple of things  
16          that some of those testified before me and some  
17          of the points that I wrote down was, having the  
18          time seems to be a real issue. Our kids are a  
19          captive audience. We have them six hours a  
20          day. That is the place where we can really get  
21          them interested in the natural world and in  
22          fishing.

23          As I said, we have Pennsylvania Academic  
24          Standards and environment and ecology. We have

1 to address those standards with educators. And  
2 many educators in many schools don't feel as  
3 though, either, they have the resources or they  
4 have the time, and you just need to be a little  
5 more creative.

6 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Tell me, do you find  
7 that it's the kids that recruit their friends  
8 into getting involved in outdoor related  
9 activities, or is that something that is left  
10 to the instructors or to the school, itself, to  
11 promote participation?

12 MS. WALLACE: Well, what I think is,  
13 actually, that kids get their parents  
14 interested. We're in the city school, and our  
15 kids are just so engrossed in the natural  
16 world. They actually bring their parents in.

17 So, when we do a day of fishing, we are  
18 never short on volunteers with the parents,  
19 because most kids want their parents next to  
20 them, going fishing with them.

21 So, it is, kind of, an interesting twist.

22 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. Chairman Rohrer.

23 MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: Thank you for  
24 your testimony.



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1           Obviously, a charter school, you are  
2           focused with a -- depend on the environmental  
3           state of the charter school; is that what you  
4           are saying?

5           MS. WALLACE: Yes, Sir.

6           MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: And, so, in  
7           that extent, you are both in a place, and by  
8           charter focusing on the outdoors, and so this  
9           kind of thing documents more natural, because  
10          that of what you are doing? You may or may not  
11          be able to comment, but if you are to look at a  
12          non charter school, obviously, we are talking  
13          about kids getting involved in whatever the  
14          reason they do it, because they are coming from  
15          homes and family members who are encouraging  
16          them, you are demonstrating that that  
17          introduction can, also, be done clearly in a  
18          school setting?

19          MS. WALLACE: Absolutely.

20          MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: What is your  
21          sense about whether or not even a small amount  
22          of -- perhaps what you are doing, could be done  
23          in a regular school setting or other charter  
24          schools; you are focused on this, is this

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1 something -- is there something about what you  
2 are doing that could be fairly easily done in  
3 other educational settings that you think could  
4 be done?

5 MS. WALLACE: I do. I absolutely do  
6 believe it. I mean, while at our place, kids  
7 can be able to walk out a classroom door and go  
8 down and visit one of the ponds.

9 Partnering -- we have so many state parks  
10 and recs; we have so many educators for our  
11 state; we have a tremendous wealth of knowledge  
12 that can be shared with our schools. And if  
13 kids can get out to a park, just once a month  
14 even, a lot of the learning happens in the  
15 classroom, all the background information  
16 happens in the classroom, but to be able to get  
17 out and connect directly with the natural world  
18 through anywhere, any park. And we have a  
19 unique park even in Philadelphia, and I don't  
20 think that it is used nearly enough. So, it  
21 should be used more and we could use the  
22 natural resources and we should utilize the  
23 talent in the state agencies.

24 MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: And that,

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1           basically -- I mean, I looked at what you have  
2           here, this would be a portion of your  
3           curriculum?

4           MS. WALLACE:  Yes.  Just a very small  
5           portion that we have.

6           MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER:  This is?

7           MS. WALLACE:  There is.

8           MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER:  Is this  
9           something that you put together or something  
10          that other agencies put together?

11          MS. WALLACE:  Well, we've actually, in  
12          here (indicating), it comes directly from the  
13          Fish and Boat Commission.  This is all their  
14          resources.  The K to 8th grade curriculum have  
15          been designed by myself and the teachers.  We  
16          design their curriculum in corroboration with  
17          the Department of Education so that our  
18          curriculum is standard based.

19          And the chart that you see, here  
20          (indicating), in your packet, these are our  
21          standardized test scores, and I believe that  
22          you can see the difference between Green Woods  
23          Charter School in comparison to the school  
24          district in Philadelphia, and even statewide,

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1 that we are able to do all of our reading and  
2 writing and our literacy due to the content of  
3 science to learn.

4 So, I think all too often, people look at  
5 education as a product, and it is really not,  
6 it is a process. So, how we teach is really  
7 the key.

8 MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: Good. I  
9 appreciate it and I think that you are doing  
10 great. Thank you.

11 MS. WALLACE: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative  
13 Kauffman.

14 REPRESENTATIVE KAUFFMAN: You're a public  
15 school, so I would assume in the City of  
16 Philadelphia, you have a variety of students  
17 coming from various economic backgrounds?

18 MS. WALLACE: Yes, Sir.

19 REPRESENTATIVE KAUFFMAN: From the low  
20 income, from the variety. And I believe we  
21 heard some unsolicited testimony a little bit  
22 ago that indicated that many in the  
23 Philadelphia school areas, school districts,  
24 what have you, would find the \$5 fee

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1           cumbersome; in the family and folks that you  
2           deal with, among the spectrum of economic  
3           backgrounds, what do you think a \$5 fee would  
4           mean to them? Just --

5           MS. WALLACE: If I could just share a  
6           really funny story with you. We just had a fun  
7           day in June where there was an opportunity  
8           where we set up a dunk tank and the kids could  
9           dunk their teachers. We were really surprised  
10          at how many dollars that came to us that day  
11          from kids that you wouldn't think had any  
12          money. But they paid their \$1 and they got in  
13          line again and again and again. They weren't  
14          very reluctant to pull out those \$1 bills.

15          So, I think it is a matter of priority.  
16          But I, also, think that, and pardon the pun, we  
17          got to get kids hooked. And the earlier the  
18          better. And as I say, your kids are a captive  
19          audience once they are in school. We come to  
20          school, we have to have 990 hours of  
21          instruction. In partnering with our state  
22          agencies and all of our state park, it is just  
23          a perfect combination for all of us.

24          So, as I said, I think that we just need

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1 to start thinking about education differently  
2 and how we deliver it in order to make all  
3 these connections for our kids, instead of just  
4 looking at reading and math.

5 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative  
6 McGeehan.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MCGEEHAN: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Chairman. And thank you for your  
9 testimony.

10 We heard tonight that the Fish and Boat  
11 Commission is just that, fishing and boating.  
12 And your school, I think, opens my eyes to a  
13 broader spectrum of the issue of the Fish and  
14 Boat Commission, which may not be understood by  
15 that many people. Your primary goals as an  
16 educator in your particular school is to teach  
17 kids how to fish?

18 MS. WALLACE: No.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MCGEEHAN: It is to be a  
20 responsible environmental student?

21 MS. WALLACE: Yes, Sir.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MCGEEHAN: So, to  
23 understand their environment better. And I  
24 think that while the \$5 fee would be to fish, I

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1 think the greater good would be far beyond  
2 fishing, itself, per se. It will be creating a  
3 whole new generation of environmental children  
4 who, then, care about the ecology, clean air,  
5 about clean water and clean areas and the  
6 sustainability of living next to it.

7 MS. WALLACE: Exactly.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MCGEEHAN: I think that has  
9 more tangible benefits to the society as a  
10 whole, and I think that the additional \$5 price  
11 put on a junior fishing license comes back, to  
12 use the phrase, tenfold --

13 MS. WALLACE: It does.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MCGEEHAN: -- and probably  
15 more.

16 MS. WALLACE: It does. To have these  
17 kinds of programs in our schools, it does just  
18 that. And the idea of stewardship is something  
19 that is un -- it is not something that is  
20 preached, it really isn't, it is really  
21 something that comes about in a natural way  
22 with our kids.

23 You first need to connect kids with the  
24 environment and then just let them know with a

1 guide and with support, and our kids don't even  
2 know that they are learning about fish, they  
3 just don't know that they are learning about  
4 fish, they just love learning, and the way that  
5 they are learning.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MCGEEHAN: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Jean, thank you so much  
8 for taking your time to be here.

9 MS. WALLACE: You're welcome.

10 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Your excellent  
11 testimony and for all the good work that you,  
12 obviously, do over at Green Woods Charter  
13 School. Thank you.

14 MS. WALLACE: Thank you, gentlemen.

15 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Our next speaker is  
16 Melody Zullinger from the Pennsylvania  
17 Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. You can begin  
18 whenever you are ready.

19 MS. ZULLINGER: Good evening Chairman  
20 Staback, Chairman Rohrer and members of the  
21 Committee. My name is Melody Zullinger and I  
22 am the executive director of the Pennsylvania  
23 Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

24 Before I start my testimony, I just want



1 to point out that I, also, brought a copy of a  
2 letter from the Pennsylvania BASS Federation  
3 Nation. They could not be here, but they ask  
4 me if I could submit this letter to you.

5 Just for the record, they are opposed to  
6 the junior fishing license.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to present  
8 our testimony concerning House Bill 1436 which  
9 provides for a junior fishing license.

10 For many years, the PFSC has supported the  
11 concept of a junior fishing license for several  
12 reasons. We believe it is long overdue that we  
13 instill in our youth, as well as with adults,  
14 the need to financially support the aquatic and  
15 wildlife resources that we all enjoy each and  
16 every day. The conservation, protection and  
17 enhancement of those resources benefits  
18 everyone, not just those of us that hunt and  
19 trap, fish or boat.

20 By not instituting a youth fishing  
21 license, the PA Fish and Boat Commission is  
22 losing federal matching funds to other states  
23 that do have a junior fishing license. Such a  
24 concept would serve to bring thousands of those

1 dollars into Pennsylvania for the benefit of  
2 all residents.

3 I must point out, that while I just said  
4 that PFSC has supported the concept of a junior  
5 fishing license, the issue is still, somewhat,  
6 a controversial one for many of our members  
7 when it comes down to actually charging our  
8 youth a fee to fish. Some feel it would be an  
9 unnecessary financial burden to the youth, and  
10 would, thus, reduce the already shrinking  
11 numbers of youth and adults who hunt and fish.

12 When we took a straw poll at our  
13 convention a few weeks ago, support for a  
14 junior fishing license was about 55 percent for  
15 and 45 percent against. We had not been able  
16 to show them the actual language of the bill at  
17 that time, and many were reluctant to vote  
18 until they had time to view it and discuss it  
19 with their clubs. We should have a better feel  
20 for their positions by our January board  
21 meeting now that the language is available.

22 We do have several preliminary concerns  
23 about House Bill 1436. PFSC has always opposed  
24 legislatively mandated funds for our wildlife

1 and aquatic resource agencies. The  
2 Commissioners should retain authority over the  
3 use of all agency funds. This proposed  
4 legislation limits the use of revenues  
5 generated from this particular license, and we  
6 feel this is unnecessary and shortsighted.

7 While we support the use of the funds  
8 generated be used for youth program, we still  
9 believe the Board of Fish and Boat Commission  
10 are better equipped to make those decisions.  
11 We trust that they will use these funds as  
12 intended and see no reason to legislatively  
13 mandate this revenue.

14 Some of our members have also stated  
15 concerns for those youth 16 through 18 years of  
16 age, and they feel that if a junior license is  
17 instituted, then youth 16 through 17 or 18  
18 should also be included in that fee level as  
19 well. Studies have shown that we do lose youth  
20 at those age groups because of the increased  
21 financial burden of paying the full price fee.  
22 We know that many have to make the decision of  
23 whether they spend the money to buy a license,  
24 or spend the money to fill their gas tank or

1 put it towards their car payment or insurance  
2 payment.

3 We, also, have concerns about  
4 reinstituting the field acknowledgements of  
5 guilt and the issuance of, no fee licences.  
6 Given past concerns by your colleagues and  
7 others of imposing such a field  
8 acknowledgements on adults, is this a good  
9 method of introducing our youth to conservation  
10 law enforcement? With respect to, no fee  
11 licences, we believe more detail is needed with  
12 respect to eligibility requirements established  
13 by the executive director.

14 We trust this isn't another instance of  
15 preferential treatment for urban areas, given  
16 the concerns that have been raised in the past  
17 about the ability of urban youth to comply with  
18 a fee license.

19 We recognize the problems and pitfalls  
20 that arise whenever new fees, licenses and  
21 legislative requirements are initially  
22 instituted. That being said, we would  
23 recommend that you amend this proposed  
24 legislation to include a sunset date for both

1 the field acknowledgements of guilt and the, no  
2 fee licenses in, perhaps, three or five years.  
3 At some point, everyone has to be treated  
4 equally, and in several years, will believe we  
5 will be able to make a better decision as to  
6 whether these two issues need to be sustained  
7 indefinitely, as they are now proposed. We  
8 also ask that the legislation be amended to  
9 raise the age limit to 18 for a junior license,  
10 and the legislatively mandated funds be amended  
11 out.

12 The PFSC looks forward to working with the  
13 Committee on this proposed legislation, and we  
14 hope that you will address the concerns of our  
15 members.

16 Again, thank you for the opportunity to  
17 testify and I'd be glad to answer any  
18 questions.

19 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. Melody, thank  
20 you so much for your testimony.

21 One point I think that I would like to  
22 clarify. In your testimony, you eluded to the  
23 fact that the programs that are going to be  
24 supported by the dollars generated from the

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1 sale of a junior license is somehow being  
2 elected by the general assembly or by the  
3 legislation that is here. That is not the  
4 case. Those programs are a grandchild of the  
5 Fish and Boat Commission, they are determined  
6 how that money will be spent on those  
7 particular programs that they have advised.  
8 So, I just wanted to clarify that so both of us  
9 are on the same page.

10 MS. ZULLINGER: No, we understand that  
11 they will be able to set up whatever programs  
12 and how they do it. Still, any time that you  
13 have a legislative mandate, that money must be  
14 spent on certain things. We feel it restricts  
15 the agency, they may get into a budget crunch  
16 and finances are very firm. There is a special  
17 place for a mandate, they wouldn't have to make  
18 a decision that year, if I lay off employees,  
19 because we can't afford to pay them, we still  
20 have to spend this money on education.

21 So, we hope that never happens, but it is  
22 a situation that the Fish and Game Commission  
23 could fall into.

24 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Just so we are sure,

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1 the legislation mandate is not coming from the  
2 Fish and Boat --

3 MS. ZULLINGER: It is in the language.

4 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. Tell me, of  
5 those people that you heard from within your  
6 organization that have a problem, you know,  
7 with the concept of a junior fishing license  
8 and the idea of making kids pay to fish, is  
9 there anything that you need that the Fish  
10 Commission can do, the junior council can do or  
11 the teachers can do to make presentations to  
12 those folks that could persuade them that a  
13 junior license might be a good idea?

14 MS. ZULLINGER: I wish that I could say  
15 there were, but honestly, I think it is a  
16 personal position. It is a personal feeling  
17 with some of our members, and it is change;  
18 they don't want to see change. If I knew what  
19 to do, I probably would have already tried it.

20 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Do you really believe  
21 that the issue attracts constant worry within  
22 the ranks of your members; that it could cause  
23 controversy, more controversy, do you believe?

24 MS. ZULLINGER: Yes. Unfortunately, I do.

1 It is just like any other issue that we had,  
2 some members adequately say that, you know, we  
3 should support this, or that they wouldn't. I  
4 don't think that it is quite as strong as the  
5 sunny license issue, but it is still, you know,  
6 one of those issues.

7 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. Chairman Rohrer.

8 MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: Melody, just a  
9 question here. The 55/45, was that -- you say  
10 was partial by the fact that people hadn't read  
11 the language yet?

12 MS. ZULLINGER: I believe so.

13 MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: So, you have no  
14 way of knowing, once they read it, that the  
15 numbers would go one way or the other?

16 MS. ZULLINGER: When I posted the question  
17 trying to get a feel, because I knew this  
18 hearing was coming up, the concerns, you know,  
19 some of the questions: will we get dedicated  
20 funding; will it be this or will it be that. I  
21 couldn't say, because I hadn't seen the  
22 language.

23 So, a lot of them -- it is funny, because  
24 some counties that voted, they did not support



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1 junior fishing license, and when I asked them,  
2 would you support a junior fishing license if  
3 we could get dedicated funding, they actually  
4 said that a few more counties would support it,  
5 and the counties that didn't support it  
6 originally, did. So, it is a very mixed bag.

7 MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: In that degree,  
8 at the end of the day, the expense, obviously,  
9 was money, which then could be used. So, to  
10 that extent, when you met or have discussed --  
11 knowing that this is a controversial piece of  
12 equation, did you, also, discuss any other  
13 alternatives, other options that could be  
14 pursued that come up?

15 MS. ZULLINGER: Yes. Actually, several  
16 members said that they would pay an additional  
17 \$5 themselves and then have that go towards  
18 education. And there were some suggestions to  
19 raise the boat registration fees an extra \$5.  
20 They, basically, said that they would rather  
21 pay that then put it on the kids. It is not --  
22 a lot of the feedback that I got, it wasn't  
23 just the \$5. If you have one kid, \$5. A lot  
24 of these families that have three or four kids,

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1           it cost the dad to get his license, so when you  
2           add the \$30 for the adult, plus 15 or more  
3           dollars for the kids, that is where they start  
4           saying, what do we do; I can't afford to take  
5           my kids along now. They are afraid of those  
6           types of scenarios.

7           MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: When Doug comes  
8           up, that is the question that I have, the other  
9           side of the equation. Okay. That is a good  
10          question. I appreciate it.

11          CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative  
12          Denlinger.

13          REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Thank you,  
14          Mr. Chairman and thank you Representative  
15          Rohrer.

16          I am not sure if Representative Rohrer was  
17          going to ask the question, and I am going to go  
18          ahead and ask the question on that subject; did  
19          you do an analysis to the impact to the  
20          commission if we implement the age 12 through  
21          15, \$5 license increase, the current license  
22          from the 16 to 18 population; what's the net  
23          result of all of that? Did you do an analysis  
24          of the total there?

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1 MS. ZULLINGER: No. Not yet. Actually,  
2 Dr. Austen and I spoke about that.

3 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Gergely.

5 REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: Thank you,  
6 Melody; how are you doing this evening?

7 One thing, just for the record so we can  
8 refer back to this at some point in time, The  
9 Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's is not  
10 in Philadelphia County; correct?

11 MS. ZULLINGER: We go in Philadelphia.

12 REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: You do have in  
13 Philadelphia County.

14 So, you make the statement, preferential  
15 treatment for urban areas; how are you saying  
16 that; could you be more defined when you say  
17 that?

18 MS. ZULLINGER: In the past hearings for  
19 -- when the original license, re-license  
20 increase, from the heart of that, there was a  
21 lot of discussions and there were talks of  
22 exempting certain area because of the concern  
23 of the low income, and it really didn't go in  
24 depth, and there was a lot of concern, you

1 know, how can you say, okay, just you that live  
2 in Philadelphia or some other urban areas, that  
3 you earned an exemption. And you started to do  
4 that and say it's okay, it is not worth the  
5 same value to hunt those urban areas or --  
6 excuse me, fish.

7 REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: And I would not,  
8 for the record, I do not support exclusion of  
9 any county, force counties, for that matter,  
10 with respect to this, and I think that can be  
11 reviewed for the executive director. I want  
12 you to know that there is no preferential  
13 treatment to anybody in particular with the way  
14 that we developed this language.

15 And the other was the issue with the  
16 sunset, this is a seven year sunset condition  
17 with that.

18 MS. ZULLINGER: We were just concerned  
19 with the sunset in the past. You are familiar  
20 with the past history of the WCO and whether it  
21 is true or not, harassing people in the field  
22 and make them pay their fines and just go on  
23 with what they were doing. That is the main  
24 reason why, we are just afraid that those kinds

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1 of scenarios could pop up again.

2 If I may respond to your previous  
3 question, I know when we first started talking  
4 about those who could not afford to buy a  
5 fishing license, there would be some type of  
6 program where clubs or other organizations  
7 could buy it for them, and we thought that  
8 could be, somehow, implemented in the language  
9 for that. Instead, it got in with the fee  
10 exemption and somewhere along the line, the  
11 wires got crossed or something. And we could  
12 review that, sure.

13 REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: Correct me if I  
14 wrong, it is, right now, 15 year old for the  
15 trout if they are cited, and you are saying  
16 that they are 12 and fishing right now. So,  
17 this doesn't create anything that is new in  
18 terms of penalized; correct?

19 MS. ZULLINGER: I believe that is correct.  
20 And maybe I am misreading something, too.

21 REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: In terms of  
22 citing those children?

23 MS. ZULLINGER: Right.

24 REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: And this

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1 particular issue here, we have no interest in  
2 citing the children, instead, educating them  
3 and having the opportunity to buy the license.  
4 I think that we keep going back to this \$5. If  
5 you have three kids between 12 and 16, God  
6 bless you. I have three kids. They are 2, 8  
7 and 10. So, I give my kids the opportunity to  
8 change the channel with respect.

9 MS. ZULLINGER: My 20 year old and 22 year  
10 old license.

11 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Melody, in your  
12 testimony you read today, you came up with  
13 55/45 percentage for and against; do you recall  
14 how many people, in numbers, actually voted?

15 MS. ZULLINGER: Yeah. We had 43, I  
16 believe, eligible counties there voting, and  
17 the vote was, like, 23 to 21.

18 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. So, it wasn't a  
19 real heavy --

20 MS. ZULLINGER: No. I mean, we have at  
21 our conventions, it is only the delegates that  
22 are eligible to vote, and 40 out of the 50 were  
23 there.

24 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Are you going to do it

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1           again at the January board meeting?

2           MS. ZULLINGER:  Yes.  The January board  
3           meeting will just be the district  
4           representatives, and they will be polling  
5           individual counties.

6           CHAIRMAN STABACK:  Could you, please, when  
7           you make a determination, let the Committee  
8           know?

9           MS. ZULLINGER:  Absolutely.

10          CHAIRMAN STABACK:  Okay.  Representative  
11          Denlinger.

12          REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER:  Just to clarify  
13          that in my mind.  So, these delegates from each  
14          of their respective counties, they have not  
15          previously gone back to the clubs in those  
16          counties regarding this; they have no input  
17          from their organizations; it is just, here is a  
18          new thought, you two who are now delegates,  
19          what do you think of this; there is no -- there  
20          is nothing behind that vote other than the will  
21          of those individuals from a county?

22          MS. ZULLINGER:  Yes and no on this issue.  
23          We've been -- we knew this was coming, so we've  
24          been telling them about it and asking them to

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1 make sure they told their members. And the  
2 problem, like I said, they don't like to take  
3 an exact position until they actually see the  
4 language. So, they knew what the feel of their  
5 club was, but they just didn't want to go on  
6 record until they saw the language.

7 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: But it would be  
8 somewhat informative?

9 MS. ZULLINGER: Yes.

10 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Thank you,  
11 Mr. Chairman.

12 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Well, Mel, thank you so  
13 much for being here and, as usual, your  
14 excellent presentation.

15 Okay. The final testimony will come from  
16 Dr. Austen, the executive director for the  
17 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

18 DR. AUSTEN: Good evening, gentlemen. And  
19 thank you for being here, Mike. Thank you for  
20 your hospitality. It is always wonderful being  
21 in Philadelphia.

22 Of course, if the Phillies play my Cubs,  
23 and to be quite honest, I am not sure where my  
24 allegiance will lie. We will deal with that



1           one later.

2           Gentlemen, I do have prepared remarks that  
3           I think all of you will have. With your  
4           permission, I am going to vary from that  
5           substantially. In fact, I am not going to use  
6           that at all, because you've seen all that  
7           material before. I presented in front of you,  
8           at least twice, these reports and talked with  
9           almost all of you individually about this  
10          proposal. And I think the folks prior to my  
11          testimony, here, have addressed most of it.  
12          What I would like to do, instead, is address  
13          some of the issues that have come up and allow  
14          plenty of time for questions, because I know  
15          that -- some of you have already told me that  
16          you have plenty of questions for me.

17          Kelly Sager, I think, gave a great  
18          introduction into how this whole thing  
19          developed. And there is some wonderful history  
20          that goes back about two years, in a weekend  
21          that we spent with the youth council having  
22          already identified youth involvement just being  
23          a challenge. And it is a dramatic challenge  
24          for us in Pennsylvania and nationwide. This is

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1       played out in many different ways. For  
2       example, right now, I am co-chairing the  
3       Governor's Outdoors Connection Task Force, and  
4       we've seen this. We have entire conferences at  
5       state colleges on getting kids outdoors.  
6       Hearing testimony from Schuylkill Center about  
7       how that sort of thing is. We know from recent  
8       surveys nationwide that this is a big problem  
9       that we are all facing.

10               So, we knew that this was an issue when we  
11       talked about how to address that. Youth  
12       council working with us and to team up with a  
13       proposal for programs and the concept on how I  
14       was hoping to play out for you since then.

15               We did bring this twice in front of the  
16       commissioners and once in a concept and once to  
17       verify the fact that it supported this. Kelly  
18       was amongst the people in front of the  
19       commission advocating for this and getting that  
20       for them.

21               We've tried to educate people on this, and  
22       that has been a big challenge for us. And this  
23       is, as Ken said, something different, and as I  
24       found out, Pennsylvania doesn't like things

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1 different. So, trying to get people to  
2 understand this and trying to address this  
3 challenge proactively, creatively and the way  
4 that will put Pennsylvania in the leadership  
5 role in trying to address keeping kids on the  
6 water and actively be involved in a challenge.

7           And I think what we've done is put  
8 together good proposals for this. I think that  
9 we -- our offices have been out and, myself, I  
10 have been in front of professionals, I have  
11 been in front of the crowds. I think that the  
12 office has done over a thousand presentations;  
13 we've talked to many, many different people  
14 about this. And, generally, the process is  
15 something like this; you walk into the room;  
16 the crowd is very concerned; they are very --  
17 probably have a lot of issues with the concept  
18 of charging the kids to fish, because they  
19 never done it before. But once one talks about  
20 the challenges and talks about the loss of  
21 people getting involved, once we talk about the  
22 program that we can put on the ground, we  
23 enforce, in time, and hope both groups will  
24 turn around and say, yeah, we like this sort of

1        thing. That means that there are always going  
2        to be a few people, as I said, who will only  
3        see it for whatever reasons, be it tradition,  
4        be it they just don't like it for whatever  
5        reason, be it lack of faith in government and  
6        be it certainly lack of faith in our agency,  
7        there is always going to be people opposed to  
8        this.

9                So, what we do is, we put together the  
10       best proposal that we think we can put together  
11       on many of these issues the community is  
12       concerned with as possible. And I think we've  
13       tried to address some of those. The issue of  
14       low income has been brought up by a number of  
15       folks. That is something that will be an  
16       option. \$5 is an option. I think that, for  
17       most kids, the vast majority of kids today, I  
18       have eight year old kids and I have to pay for  
19       school activities, for sports, for scouts, for  
20       cub scouts. How much do you pay for cub scouts  
21       for pins and scarves and all sorts of things?  
22       It is a lot of money.

23                So, we are used to paying a lot more than  
24       \$5 for kids, but this not to say that there are

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1           some families, and I am sure there are, where  
2           \$5 or maybe even 10 or \$15 if they have kids  
3           that age, might be an issue.

4           And we've looked at and included any of  
5           the legislation the ability to create  
6           something, and we've talked considerably and  
7           internally about how one might start this sort  
8           of thing. And I think that we have some good  
9           options available to make that happen, be it,  
10          like, school lunch programs and things like  
11          that. Like, allow persons to apply for an  
12          exemption and get it from us. A number of  
13          groups and clubs, including groups like TU,  
14          have come up and said, we would be more than  
15          happy to have fund options.

16          There is separate legislation allowing  
17          options and that is a very common option for us  
18          where groups, clubs, sporting groups reach out  
19          to kids who may be in that sort of situations.

20          And I really don't think that is going to  
21          be near as much an issue as people make it out  
22          to be. \$5 isn't a lot of money. The kids  
23          talked about how much they spend -- one of the  
24          schools, they probably had the most -- to get

1           into the school, he had to go through  
2           McDonald's.

3                   I think that gives a good image of what  
4           the kids like to spend their money on if they  
5           don't buy a license, a big mac. I don't see  
6           that as being a very equal spenditure upon  
7           fishing licenses to very essential in terms of  
8           the cost.

9                   The license is an obstacle. My kids will  
10          just decide to go out fishing one day and they  
11          won't have the license and they will fear about  
12          getting caught by one of our good water  
13          conservation officers, who are good people and  
14          work with kids. We have nearly 800 places for  
15          you to be able to buy fishing licenses; they  
16          can buy them over the Web. I buy my license  
17          over the Web a lot of times. My kids, my eight  
18          year old is on the Web more than I am, but they  
19          have to go get mom or dad for their credit  
20          card. That is a little bit of an issue, but  
21          they can get that easy.

22                   Most of the kids, sometimes during the  
23          winter, sometimes -- at some point during the  
24          period, people go buy it at Kmart, a Wal-Mart,

1 a Dick's Sporting Goods, wherever there is a  
2 fishing license. There is no lack of  
3 opportunity to buy a fishing license.

4 If a kid happens to go out and not have a  
5 fishing license, we've talked about the law  
6 side of it, they are not going to get arrested,  
7 they are going to be told to go back and buy a  
8 license or to get one if they don't have one,  
9 they will be given different context on how  
10 they can get one for free from one of the  
11 contacts that we have.

12 I don't think see license as an obstacle,  
13 and I hope that a junior license will not be an  
14 obstacle for any kid in Pennsylvania, be it  
15 urban kids, rural kids, east, west, north or  
16 south. That would be our goal and hope that we  
17 make that and keep that and hope that happens.

18 Buying the license is part of being the  
19 sportsman. North America has what we call the  
20 North American Model where hundreds of  
21 fishermen pay for the use of conservation and  
22 natural resources. They are the ones that pay  
23 for the game lands that we have, they are the  
24 ones that paid for the hatcheries that we have,

1           they are the ones that pay for law enforcement  
2           officers out there and the biologists, to  
3           protect the resources.

4                     Getting kids to be a part of that North  
5           American Model is part of growing up and  
6           maturing as a sportsman. It is part of growing  
7           up and being an adult. I've had many, many  
8           more people tell me that their kids are proud  
9           to have a fishing license on their jacket or  
10          vest or whatever it is. And people that say,  
11          it is an obstacle for kids to just buy a  
12          license. I think that one of the obstacles  
13          that we really have is getting kids to  
14          understand their role. Getting kids to  
15          understand that part of what they need to do  
16          and part of what is going to be expected of  
17          them as adults is to contribute to that North  
18          American Model, so that way, the funding  
19          conservation agencies are so important for us.

20                    So, I don't see it as an obstacle, more or  
21          less as the communities way of educating kids,  
22          and a very cheap way to do the process.

23                    Mark nailed an outdoor reporter and  
24          science and biology teacher, and he's talked to



1 the kids who say that once they turn 16 and  
2 have to buy an adult license, they don't have a  
3 challenge, because they don't have the history  
4 of doing that as younger kids. They don't  
5 understand what it involves. This gives us the  
6 opportunity to make that sort of thing happen.

7 The people who are nay sayers, the people  
8 who just don't believe that we can make this  
9 work. I think that we've addressed workers  
10 that were put in the sunset position. I think  
11 that is a very good government; I think that is  
12 a way of telling people that if, we can't make  
13 this work, it goes away. I think that should  
14 give them the confidence, the people who don't  
15 believe that we can perform, this should give  
16 them the confidence that, if you can't show  
17 that this program can supply more benefits than  
18 the potential cost, then it will go away,  
19 because you guys will say right here in  
20 legislation when it is done. We have seven  
21 years to get this program amped up, that the  
22 money placed is totally on board and show that  
23 this program will be successful, otherwise, it  
24 won't exist anymore. I think what they should

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1 do, and what I would hope that means is, that  
2 you all can go back to people who say, I don't  
3 like this, let's give them a chance; let's see  
4 if it can really work; see if they can make it  
5 work; if they don't, you will have the  
6 authority to not renew it for any time after  
7 that.

8 The program that this money will provide  
9 really, however, are the mechanisms to what it  
10 is all about, for the most part. Getting  
11 people into these programs, inner city  
12 programs, kids involved in schools, teacher  
13 programs, there are all sorts of things. That  
14 is what this will provide. And what we've done  
15 is, we've tested this out. We've actually done  
16 the process of trying to show the public what  
17 this can do for us. And in some of the  
18 materials that you have all been given, we sent  
19 packets to everyone in the house and senate  
20 with that video. We've given them examples of  
21 some of the programs that this -- many tests  
22 that Frank has done for us.

23 Last year we put \$50,000 into it, this  
24 year we put 50,000 into it. Our staff, each

1 year, got at least five times as many requests  
2 that we have been given money for that. And  
3 sometimes it was addressed to the concerns of  
4 people, but, for example, this is a couple of  
5 programs that are aimed at cities.

6 Unfortunately, Philadelphia is not really some  
7 of the main areas just because of the lack of  
8 applicants. For example, in Pittsburg, the  
9 variety of the children that carry in Pittsburg  
10 is sufficient in that 100 kids venture outdoors  
11 to urban fishing programs, using their money to  
12 put the trailer that urban, inner city areas,  
13 to take fishing to the kids.

14 The programs provide instructions, provide  
15 the opportunity for the kids to go out fishing.  
16 They are taking 360 kids. 750 kids they expect  
17 in their program. The Schulykill Center were  
18 awesome with over 300.

19 So, these are just the trial. The  
20 tentative planning to see what we can do in  
21 every county in the Commonwealth, hoping that  
22 every school will be served at best.

23 So, I think that if one wants to look at,  
24 can we be successful; the answer has to be,

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1       yes. We've shown that these sorts of programs  
2       are desired; we've shown that people can put  
3       these programs on their own and we've shown  
4       that there is an ability to make these sorts of  
5       things successful. And, so, the proof is in  
6       the pudding for that sort of thing.

7               On the way up here, we've talked about a  
8       lot of other states. I think there is,  
9       roughly, 14 states that have some sort of  
10      junior fishing program. All different age  
11      categories. As far as we can tell, not a  
12      single one of them takes that money and invests  
13      it back into these programs.

14             A colleague of mine has spent a long time  
15      directing the Tennessee Park Association down  
16      in Tennessee and he has been their director for  
17      over 30 years, and they have this program for  
18      many, many years. And his challenge, right  
19      now, is because that money is not directed for  
20      students. He wants to do more urban programs,  
21      but he has to take it from somewhere else. He  
22      has to take it from some other part and  
23      redirect it to the urban part that he wants to  
24      develop.

0101

1           So, I think what we've developed, here, is  
2           the mechanics to make this sort of thing work  
3           and be successful.

4           What I hope that you could do, and what I  
5           am asking you all to do with all of us and be  
6           partners, is to envision the future where  
7           Pennsylvania can have a Schuylkill Center in  
8           every county. We can have a school in every  
9           district that has a processing plant. Maybe  
10          every school in the district. We can have a  
11          program like Saint Mary's Middle School where  
12          they actually have aquatic nurseries. In the  
13          schools, they teach them how to raise fish,  
14          putting them in the stream, bringing them up  
15          and teach them what they are fishing for.

16          I am hoping that we can have a  
17          Pennsylvania, where every kid can go out and  
18          catch a fish. And because of that, every kid  
19          can go out and learn how to be a steward for  
20          aquatic resources. That is, essentially, what  
21          we want them to do. And if these kids grow up  
22          to be adults that, eventually, don't go fishing  
23          and they do something else, you know, that  
24          would be a loss for us. If they grow up to be

1 adults that understand their role as protectors  
2 and servers of the aquatic, that is more  
3 important to us. But they will be there to  
4 protect the resources and vote for those bills  
5 that they claim we use for our protection to  
6 preserve open space and all the other things  
7 that we care about.

8 People aren't always going to accept this,  
9 because it is different, it is something new,  
10 it is something that is changing where you've  
11 always done things in the past. But I hope  
12 that you all think that, we can't solve today's  
13 problems by using the same thinking that lead  
14 us to the problem that we have right now. We  
15 have to think differently; we have to be bold  
16 with this sort of thing; we have to realize  
17 that some people are going to say, I don't like  
18 it. We will remain fair. That is our  
19 challenge, to move beyond that, recognize that  
20 those opposite forces are there to say, this is  
21 a better way to go.

22 I hope that you'll give us a chance to  
23 make this work. I am hoping that you will give  
24 us a chance to show you how this program can be

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1           successful and I am hoping that you will give  
2           us a chance to come back in seven years from  
3           now and say, yes, this was a good move for  
4           Pennsylvania.

5                     Thank you very much.  And I would  
6           certainly be happy to answer any questions that  
7           you may have.

8                     CHAIRMAN STABACK:  Thank you, Doug, for  
9           your excellent testimony and I certainly admire  
10          your dedication and concept of a junior fishing  
11          license.

12                    Well, you and I have talked about this in  
13          the past, the proposal and what we need to sell  
14          this to those people who have a difficult time  
15          in accepting the fact that kids should be  
16          charged a fee to fish.  And there are a number  
17          of traditional fishing -- men that don't  
18          believe in, and I have said that this is going  
19          to be a major hurdle for you to get over before  
20          people are going to buy into the concept  
21          totally.

22                    The one big question is, are we prepared  
23          to respond to it and prepared to answer?  And  
24          that is very simple, if someone asked you or

0104

1 me, for that matter, if it was any one of us,  
2 why do you think that charging kids to fish  
3 will increase participation in the sport, when  
4 today they can fish for nothing and don't?

5 DR. AUSTEN: The answer lies in the things  
6 that we are going to provide these kids. And  
7 in the discussion earlier when we were talking  
8 about, for example, where do we have them in  
9 schools? I think it is time. How can we get  
10 these kids out? If we can get programs in the  
11 schools, if the programs were in a place where  
12 the kids were at, if the programs were in a  
13 place where kids go to find recreational  
14 opportunities. If we can get the kids off the  
15 streets and go fishing, where they can go to  
16 girls or boys clubs, or the police athletic  
17 league or whatever group that would do this  
18 sort of thing, that is going to provide them  
19 the opportunities. In Philadelphia, you know,  
20 there is the dual problem of not having a place  
21 to fish, also not having the people to take  
22 them fishing.

23 I think we can help by providing more  
24 places to fish, provide fishing piers and



0105

1 creating better waters here. But you still  
2 have to have somebody there, a counselor, an  
3 instructor, or whoever it is, who has the  
4 equipment, has the places to go lined up and  
5 has the ability to teach these kids to go and  
6 get out on the water. And that is the sort of  
7 thing that we are adopting. That's directly  
8 what we are requesting by doing this sort of  
9 program.

10 These kids will pay money to join the  
11 baseball league, a football league, a  
12 basketball league or pay whatever it is to  
13 join, buy \$140 for tennis shoes. You know,  
14 that is not going to be the issue; it is going  
15 to be the opportunity. And that is what we can  
16 provide. We are not going to provide, you  
17 know, grant it, this is not huge numbers of  
18 money, we're not going to solve every kid's  
19 problem in Pennsylvania. We want to see kids  
20 out of the street. But this is, definitely, a  
21 way to go to move the needle forward and get  
22 more kids out there, because we are supplying  
23 the opportunity and the direction and the skill  
24 and the access and the quell to make this sort

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1 of thing happen.

2 Will there be some kids, maybe because of  
3 their parents or whatever, who will say, I  
4 don't like this because I don't want to have to  
5 buy a licence; there could be. The benefits  
6 will far out weigh the negative side of that.  
7 And I am so certain that I would be willing to  
8 show you that is the case.

9 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. You eluded to  
10 the fact that there is probably around 13, 14  
11 states, now, that have a junior fishing license  
12 in place?

13 DR. AUSTEN: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN STABACK: None of them funded by  
15 any kind of a program like you're suggesting  
16 that we adopt; do any of those states have any  
17 kind of program, similar, in place?

18 DR. AUSTEN: Yes. There is a lot of  
19 programs out there right now. Fishing, not  
20 drugs, there are programs that are devoted  
21 directly to fishing foundations that are  
22 nationally similar programs. There is a lot of  
23 stuff out there. And there is more that could  
24 be to address some of these issues. But the

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1 challenge is always getting them on the ground,  
2 having the people put them in place, having the  
3 funds to give to our partners in the schools  
4 and in the parks and other places. It often  
5 doesn't take a lot to get them engaged.

6 I think Ken Undercoffer said that trout in  
7 the classroom cost \$2000 on average. Schools  
8 don't have that sort of money. I am ashamed to  
9 say, they don't have that kind of money or the  
10 people that are trained and willing to give  
11 their time to make this happen. So, it doesn't  
12 take a lot, and we can spread it off on one of  
13 the -- kind of a small grant program has shown  
14 for us.

15 So, there is a great potential for that  
16 sort of thing.

17 CHAIRMAN STABACK: And those states that  
18 have those programs in place, what have they  
19 been doing in the years; are they successful;  
20 how are they funded if they are not earmarked  
21 for that?

22 DR. AUSTEN: What they generally do is,  
23 within an entire agency, they will have a fund,  
24 like you and I will have a fish fund, and they

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1 will allocate that money out for whatever their  
2 pressing needs, and if their director or board  
3 or whatever it is decides they want to use  
4 money in one place and not the other,  
5 obviously, there is ramifications in that. In  
6 the case of Gary Myers in Tennessee, he wanted  
7 to expand some additional programs and that  
8 money comes from somewhere else.

9 And this is, really, kind of the issue  
10 that we found ourself struggling with two years  
11 ago and Carl and I talked about this, we knew  
12 and they knew that we needed to create  
13 programs, and these programs cost money. So  
14 what did we do; we called the hatchery or two,  
15 they were using the waterways officers out  
16 there and other programs in terms of activities  
17 or whatever it is, the decision was made, and I  
18 think it was a wise decision, that they don't  
19 want to rob from Peter to pay Paul. And they  
20 also thought that these people were their  
21 investment, were their responsibility, the  
22 sports people, the person who are out there  
23 engaged in and using those resources. So, it  
24 seemed like a fair comprise.

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1           Yeah. The other states struggle with  
2 this. Are there some programs that are more  
3 successful than others? What I have had to do  
4 is rely upon my staff. There are a lot of  
5 people who've looked through these programs and  
6 looked at all of the research and surveyed them  
7 and then looked at the added service to  
8 evaluate if these programs are working. It is,  
9 also, difficult to evaluate some of these  
10 programs, because it is difficult to talk to  
11 kids over the course of 5 or 10 more years to  
12 see which ones get caught them as anglers as  
13 teens and adults. So, it is not as simple as  
14 just say, without a lot of data.

15           What this program is trying to put in,  
16 trying to fund, it will make it happen. As  
17 long as it allows us to track every person and  
18 understand what they are buying. What they are  
19 buying every year, every other year; do they  
20 follow in line with that?

21           So, we have a very good ability to  
22 determine and track how well these programs  
23 work.

24           So, I think that we are in a very good

0110

1 position where we have to acknowledge and get  
2 successful.

3 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. Chairman Rohrer.

4 MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: Thank you,  
5 Doug.

6 Okay, let me go to a dumb thing here.  
7 One, I was originally thinking that the primary  
8 reason, and I think it is, but the reason for  
9 this was to come up with additional funds that  
10 will try to reach out to the youth. Reaching  
11 out to the youth and having funds to do it, I  
12 think, is a good thing. I did, kind of, speak  
13 to you about that and you mentioned that the  
14 funding was to teach our youth the North  
15 American Model. I understand that would be,  
16 kind of, like, pay taxes early, because when  
17 you get older you are going to do it anyway, so  
18 it is a good idea. So, I guess it is all a  
19 matter of time. But in that regard, a lot of  
20 it is a source of where we have to go. To that  
21 extent, what is the projection; how many youth  
22 licenses do you expect will be sold and what is  
23 the estimated revenue from that? And then as  
24 the question was asked earlier, suppose

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1 something was put -- a few dollars was put on  
2 an adult license with a number of those that  
3 are sold, what would we have to do to raise the  
4 equivalent amount?

5 DR. AUSTEN: If you will allow me to  
6 address this tax. We need to get out that  
7 fishing is a privilege. It is something that  
8 -- the resources that we have to manage it, and  
9 we certainly have to manage that in a way that  
10 is appropriate, and the way that Pennsylvania  
11 and every other city has decided to fund these  
12 agencies is primarily through licenses.

13 People don't have to fish if they don't  
14 want to, but they have to recognize that by  
15 taking advantage in and participating in being  
16 out in these public resources, they have  
17 responsibility, and that is an important part  
18 of this role of good sportsman like. I think  
19 it is going to take -- to minimize that role,  
20 because that's what it's lead to -- the United  
21 States really has the best opportunities to  
22 fish and hunt.

23 If anything, if you go to Europe, all the  
24 places are private there. You can't go fishing

1 and hunting. When we had the governor's -- the  
2 International Youth Fly Fishing Tournament,  
3 here, in Pennsylvania, some of you got to see  
4 back in early August, we had kids from, about,  
5 10 or 12 other countries. And I had a chance  
6 to talk to a lot of them, sometimes through an  
7 interpreter, sometimes we struggled with it,  
8 but to a person, they were amazed by the fact  
9 that we, here, have access to waters, public  
10 waters that he can fish and not pay. It is  
11 amazing to them. It is eye opening to them.  
12 And waters that had clean water in them; waters  
13 that weren't flowing with sewage down them;  
14 waters that didn't have soapsuds in them,  
15 because that is what they fished in in a lot of  
16 places where they come from.

17 So, I think that recognition and that role  
18 that they need to equate, 13, 14, 15 year olds,  
19 is an important part of this. And we haven't  
20 been talking about that very much, because it  
21 really has been about programs and funding.  
22 That is a big part of it. I think it is worth  
23 keeping that in mind.

24 In terms of money, what will this bring



0113

1 in? The U.S. Fish and License estimates that  
2 there is, roughly, around 230 -- 45 -- 250,000  
3 who are 12 to 15 year olds in that age bracket.  
4 So, we multiply that by five and get, around, 3  
5 to \$350 million. So, somewhere between the  
6 vicinity of \$1.7 to \$2 million. It is really  
7 hard to tell how this will actually play out,  
8 because fishing license numbers are less and  
9 less. So, we will bring in \$2 million.

10 MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: Are you  
11 assuming that every county --

12 DR. AUSTEN: That is how many kids fish.

13 MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: 250,000 between  
14 12 and 15?

15 DR. AUSTEN: Between 12 and 15. It is the  
16 estimate. So, when you run those numbers, it  
17 works out -- that is four age classes which we  
18 have to show the status on. And that is the  
19 survey, the national hunting and fishing survey  
20 as defined by the consensus bureau. So, it is  
21 considered to be very reliable.

22 If one looks at our adults residency and  
23 non-residency categories, we sell, roughly,  
24 maybe, 850,000 licenses. So, if you raised

1 each adult license, resident, nonresident,  
2 somewhere along those lines, one would look at,  
3 maybe, two and a half to three dollars per  
4 license, within, roughly, the same amount of  
5 total revenue. So, look at it, and that is  
6 right.

7 The option that was brought up, also, was  
8 reducing the fees for older teenage kids. Kids  
9 in the 16, 17, 18-year-old category. Looking  
10 at our point-of-sale data in terms of what we  
11 sell, roughly, 16,000 licenses for ages 16 and  
12 17 year olds, just 16 and 17 year olds would  
13 have bought a fishing license and a trout  
14 stamp, that would be \$29 total. That is  
15 \$920,000 worth of driving instruction, \$5 if  
16 you take that off the top, so, it would be  
17 somewhere around \$750,000 to reduce the 16 and  
18 17 year old license down to the \$5 level.

19 So, there is a significant reduction  
20 there, and then if the legislation, as it is  
21 right now, direct that money from the youth in  
22 what we have in our fish fund to use for  
23 general operations, it would be directed to the  
24 youth programs itself. So, one would have to

0115

1           construct that sort of money.

2           MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER:   Okay.  That  
3           suffices for now.  Thanks.

4           CHAIRMAN STABACK:  Representative Gergely.

5           REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY:  Thank you,  
6           Mr. Chairman.

7           The \$3 match, does it not have to be  
8           through a children's license?

9           DR. AUSTEN:  No.  Any license that we sell  
10          has a mandatory license above the minimal fee,  
11          \$1, \$2, which is a county license fee, a  
12          license for the state.  So, \$5 youth license  
13          would be part of that match.

14          REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY:  And if you didn't  
15          implement that, you would not get the  
16          additional moneys; is that correct?

17          DR. AUSTEN:  That's correct.

18          REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY:  So, I just want  
19          to clarify that.  I understand that you will  
20          not get the additional moneys if you just  
21          increased ramp fees or youth, you would have to  
22          increase the fishing licenses, the other \$3 or  
23          \$3.50?  It is a great point.

24          DR. AUSTEN:  Say if we sell 200,000 new

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1 licenses or if we did not sell 10,000, we would  
2 be losing, in a sense, somewhere between 600  
3 and \$650,000 normally.

4 MINORITY CHAIRMAN ROHRER: Now, that is  
5 more than your responsibility, even like PA  
6 BASS and they raise fees, you just can't  
7 capture the federal money, and part of the  
8 objective is, when we started this process, the  
9 capture money was available to us at a minimal  
10 cost so that we can give that to Pennsylvania.  
11 It is \$3 on the table that we don't have, that  
12 we could get for five bucks. Common sense, we  
13 would have to charge the adult license more and  
14 make far less federal dollars per license.  
15 Charge \$8.

16 What I want to know is, and I think that  
17 I'm going to have this discussion with you and  
18 your executive staff is, what, in the last 10  
19 years, the snapshot 1997 to 2007, what made the  
20 decline from fishing in adult and youth  
21 participation?

22 DR. AUSTEN: There is two ways of looking  
23 at that. One is license sales. And the reason  
24 that I say that is because license sales are

0117

1 participation. Because we know that there is a  
2 lot of people that buy license one year and not  
3 the next. We call this a churn rate, and there  
4 has been a lot more information on that.

5 License sales have declined, for the most  
6 part. This year, we are actually seeing an  
7 increase in license sales. Roughly, a little  
8 over three percent. People have been investing  
9 a lot of money in marketing and promotions, I  
10 think, paid off well, as well as teenager  
11 participation is up.

12 So, that has been a little in the mix in  
13 terms of what, really, promotional things. And  
14 flags, for the most part, would be throughout  
15 the year.

16 The license fees developed would cost us  
17 nine-and-a-half percent, that is a big  
18 increase. That is 30 some odd percent  
19 increase.

20 Nationwide, fishing continues to decline.  
21 The national survey that came out just  
22 recently, they tell us fishing continues to  
23 decline. Nationwide, it is a 12 percent  
24 decline. There is the testimony.

0118

1           So, it is a challenge for us to get people  
2           out there, and continues to become increasingly  
3           difficult, because we simply want to get them  
4           out there at an early age in terms of putting  
5           programs in place.

6           I think one of those -- the testimony was  
7           about how kids can get the adults to go out  
8           with them, and that is true. When my kids  
9           asked me, dad, let's go fishing; I rarely say  
10          no. And that might not be the case with other  
11          parents.

12          CHAIRMAN STABACK: And I am asking that,  
13          if we deal with the Sunset Commission language,  
14          if you are setting up kids to be that cultural  
15          --

16          DR. AUSTEN: North American Model.

17          REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: You should see a  
18          significant increase from the 16 to 17 year  
19          olds from the price of the 16,000 licenses to  
20          exponentially a lot more, if you get all 200  
21          kids in that age group to buy a license. A  
22          very good job. I think that it should be when  
23          those 16 year olds, they continue to have money  
24          to purchase, come up if we are failing that,

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1       too. What that is, we have to link that  
2       foundation of purchase.

3               DR. AUSTEN: Yeah. The foundation of  
4       purchases is a good mindset that we need, but  
5       we will also have in the schools, where these  
6       kids don't have the social network there from  
7       people who could be helping. We don't have a  
8       lot of fishing clubs. A lot of schools at one  
9       point had fishing clubs. When I was in high  
10      school, I can remember the fishing clubs. It  
11      is not there anymore. My school is not there  
12      anymore. But they don't have programs where  
13      there is trout in the classroom; they don't  
14      have the programs as the clubs, because extra  
15      curriculum activities are the focus in the  
16      schools because of funding resources.

17             And what we can build, here, is all sorts  
18      of settings where kids can come together and do  
19      this. And that is going to be a big part. And  
20      that is one of the biggest motivators of kids  
21      at that age, is to do anything that they want  
22      to do. And if we provide that program for them  
23      to have it, if we can provide the equipment,  
24      whatever it might be. To provide the social

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1 setting where they will want to do that. I  
2 think that is a really big part of this whole  
3 process.

4 REPRESENTATIVE GERGELY: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Keller.

7 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Doctor, for your  
9 testimony here.

10 Quick question; of our neighboring states,  
11 how many have this junior license fee?

12 DR. AUSTEN: I was quickly going through  
13 my notes and up on our Web site, I am not sure  
14 that I can answer that offhand, I have a table  
15 here, somewhere that lists all of the states, I  
16 doubt that many of them do. Tennessee does,  
17 they are close by; in terms of rural states,  
18 New York does not; Maryland does not; West  
19 Virginia -- West Virginia does have a youth  
20 license.

21 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: What about Ohio?

22 DR. AUSTEN: Ohio -- Ohio does not. So,  
23 most of the states don't.

24 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Representative



0121

1 Rohrer kind of took my question on the numbers.

2 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative  
4 Denlinger.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Thank you,  
6 Doug, for testifying.

7 I was wondering, the federation of your  
8 presentation advocated for you as an  
9 enforceable agency, to have more latitude to  
10 use for funds; I understand there is political  
11 trade-offs, to the idea that we would promote  
12 this as a license to use, but the agency has  
13 covers that they need to cover for; would you  
14 prefer to have more latitude with the use of  
15 those funds then saying, it has to be just  
16 youth programs?

17 DR. AUSTEN: It is a loaded question. How  
18 much latitude would I like to have? You know,  
19 there is certainly arguments both ways on this  
20 and I talked to Carol the other day about this.  
21 You envision every quail group and pheasant  
22 group who are all dedicated and funded. But  
23 the fact is that we have a lot of funds that go  
24 strictly to different places like that. You

1 deal with those things all the time. Federal  
2 aid, boating dollars, certain types of boating  
3 activities, settling issues for pollution. It  
4 is usually restricted by law or by the  
5 legality. So, it is not anything new for us.  
6 So, I look at this program; I look at this as  
7 so important that I have no qualms about it  
8 being dedicated by you, directed by you for the  
9 youth programs. I don't have a problem with  
10 that. If the agency comes to a point where it  
11 starts to look for cuts and funding new  
12 programs, that is, essentially, cutting their  
13 future, and that would be disastrous. I  
14 understand the federation's position in it; I  
15 respect their wanting to protect our  
16 flexibility, but I don't see it as any problem  
17 at all with this youth money being directed to  
18 the youth program.

19 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Very good.

20 Thank you.

21 Just a question. With respect to  
22 Representative Gergely, the \$3 has to be  
23 dedicated to the kids, I think that is why we  
24 put the language in it to include that license

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1 for children and mandated it, or they wouldn't  
2 fund the \$3; am I wrong?

3 DR. AUSTEN: The license -- or the funding  
4 would not have to be dedicated towards that.  
5 The reason we get that money is because we have  
6 a license category. It could be for people who  
7 is, maybe, seven and a half --

8 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: That is fine.

9 DR. AUSTEN: It just has to be a mandatory  
10 license. What we would do is, and we've  
11 accepted it and proposed that the actual \$5  
12 plus the federal aid dollars all would be put  
13 into a pot for youth programs.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Okay. That is  
15 it.

16 (Whereupon, the following was  
17 stenographically recorded from  
18 written testimony.)

19 "MR. ANDERSON: Members of the House Game  
20 and Fisheries Committee:

21 "On behalf of the PA BASS Federation  
22 Nation, we wish to express our opposition to  
23 the proposed junior fishing license legislation  
24 and the push by the PA Fish and Boat Commission

1 to charge our youth to fish.

2 "I find it appalling that we need or would  
3 want to charge children under the age of 16 to  
4 fish. I and members of PA BASS Federation  
5 Nation have been involved in youth programs for  
6 several years, including working with  
7 handicapped children and their parents to  
8 promote fishing.

9 "The PFBC claims that this money is needed  
10 to promote and educate the youth on fishing.  
11 There are other ways of raising money other  
12 than charging the children.

13 "Not only am I president of the PA BASS  
14 Federation Nation, but I also have a management  
15 company that oversees housing for low income  
16 families. Children who come from low income  
17 families can hardly afford the basic  
18 necessities, let alone afford a license to  
19 enjoy the sport of fishing, even if it is only  
20 \$5. As owner of a bait shop, I have witnessed  
21 families who have trouble buying bait to take  
22 their children fishing, and you wish to add  
23 more costs to them.

24 "If the fish commission is in dire need of

1 money, why don't they do what other states do?  
2 As a tournament fisherman, I travel to several  
3 states and pay a ramp fee just about  
4 everywhere, except Pennsylvania. The only  
5 place I know of in Pennsylvania that charges a  
6 fee is in Raystown. Why not impose ramp fees  
7 at PFBC boat ramps and work with the state  
8 parks to impose a fee at their ramps that could  
9 be used for educational purposes? For example,  
10 if you have, approximately, 400,000 registered  
11 boats in the state of Pennsylvania and you  
12 charge a ramp fee of \$5 a boat, that would be  
13 all water craft vessels, including kayaks,  
14 canoes, ski jets, sail boats, et cetera, you  
15 would raise, approximately, \$2 million. With  
16 commission dedicated revenue like this, we  
17 would not have to make the children suffer.

18 "We believe the majority of  
19 Pennsylvanian's will be quite upset and not  
20 take this issue lightly. Please consider other  
21 options.

22 "If you wish to speak to me on this  
23 subject further, you may contact me at  
24 717-324-4730.

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1            "Sincerely, Rick Anderson, President PA  
2 BASS Federation Nation."

3            CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. Well, that  
4 concludes our testimony and questions and  
5 answers on House Bill 1436.

6            Doug, I want to thank you, again, for  
7 being here for your excellent testimony. You  
8 know, there is an awful lot of work that has to  
9 be done with this bill before the idea of a  
10 general fee, but the tide is on our side, and  
11 that you know what you need to do.

12           I want to thank Representative McGeehan  
13 for hosting tonight's hearing. And on that  
14 note, this hearing is adjourned.

15                            (Whereupon, the proceeding was  
16                            adjourned at approximately 9:33  
17                            p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, RENEE HELMAR, a Shorthand Reporter, and Notary Public, certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings which were held at the time, place and on the date herein before set forth.

I further certify that I am neither attorney nor counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action in which these proceedings were taken; further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed in this case, nor am I financially interested in this action.

Renee Helmar,

Shorthand Reporter