



Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

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Providing leadership and advocacy for the enhancement of our fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of all hunters, trappers, anglers and conservationists. Protecting our 2nd Amendment Rights.

House Game and Fisheries Committee Hearing

Sunday Hunting

Thursday, June 9th, 2011

Chairman Evans, Chairman Staback, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Ben Koncewicz. I am here today representing the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. PFSC currently represents over 73,000 sportsmen and women, comprised of 240 affiliated clubs in 40 counties and 6 statewide organizations.

Sunday hunting is not a new topic for this Committee, or the Federation. It has been debated in club meetings, division meetings, official hearings, hunting camps, and in the field. It is an issue that stirs passionate and varied opinions when being debated.

There are those here today that will talk to you about the merits of Sunday hunting and there will be those opposing any changes to the current system. We are not here today to debate the pros and cons of either side of the issue itself. What we are here today to support is a change to the way the issue is decided.

There was a time when even the mention of Sunday hunting was strongly opposed by a vast majority of PFSC members. However, recently that opposition has been softening, and as an organization, the PFSC's direction has moved from being divided down the middle, to now being slightly on the supportive side. Support goes even higher when the discussion turns to "who should be deciding the issue of Sunday hunting."

Any change to Sunday regulations is currently controlled by the legislature. PFSC believes that whether or not we allow hunting on Sunday should be decided based on wildlife management recommendations, and not decided based on political opinions. The decision should be decided by our wildlife agency through the season and bag limits process, like all other hunting seasons, dates and times.

A large majority of our members are not supportive of an all-out removal of the Sunday hunting prohibition with the legislature setting the "when's and where's" of what species may be hunted; however, they are supportive of a change that removes the decision making process from the legislature and gives it to our wildlife management agency.

Therefore, PFSC wholeheartedly supports a change in legislation that would remove the issue of Sunday hunting from the political legislative process, place it under the control of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, thus allowing it to go through the proposal process that all other season and bag limit changes go through.

Again, thank you for allowing us the time to testify here today. I'd be glad to try to answer any questions you may have.