



November 8, 2021

TO: Senate Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations

RE: Pennsylvania Game Commission and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
Commissioner Appointments & Vacancies

Dear Honorable Senator Kim Ward - Committee Chair, Honorable Senator Jay Costa -  
Committee Co-Chair, and Senate Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

The undersigned organizations, who represent the interests of thousands of sportsmen and women across Pennsylvania, are writing to urge the committee to support the responsible management of our Commonwealth's wildlife and fish habitats by ensuring that future nominees for the boards of commissioners for Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) receive prompt consideration so the boards can to continue to operate with a quorum. We urge the committee to make this a priority for the fall of 2021 as there will be continued vacancies among the boards in the coming months.

There are currently five vacant seats on the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners with another seat becoming vacant in December 2021 (Source 1). We fear that without immediate action by the committee, the commission will not have enough board members to form a

quorum for their meeting in January 2022. We are concerned about this issue for the following reasons:

1. If the vacancies are not filled this fall, the Board of Game Commissioners will only have three attendees for its next meeting, meaning that a quorum will be unobtainable for the first time in the Board's history.
2. If there is no quorum, the Board will be unable to perform its duties and could stall or even set-back important conservation efforts currently in progress.
3. If there is no quorum, the rules and regulations governing hunting seasons and bag limits will revert to the previous years, further impeding the Board of Game Commissioner's ability to use all the tools available to responsibly manage wildlife in the commonwealth.

The sportsmen and women of the Keystone State rely on the PGC and PFBC to protect, restore and conserve the state's land and water resources that everyone cherishes. While pursuing their passion, these 1.3 million anglers and 1 million hunters/trappers in turn support over 20,000 jobs and support Pennsylvania's \$26.9 billion recreation economy. Over the last year there is ample evidence that this outdoor recreation economy is growing. With more and more Pennsylvanians turning to our public lands and fisheries, maintaining the ability of the boards of commissioners to operate at full capacity is paramount to undergird Pennsylvania's recreation economy.

We urge you to thoroughly and quickly consider the nominations to the Commissions this fall to ensure there are no disruptions in the management of Pennsylvania's fish and wildlife. We thank you for your consideration and the continued support of the sporting community.

Signed,

American Sportfishing Association  
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Ducks Unlimited  
Hunters United for Sunday Hunting  
The Izaak Walton League of America, Pennsylvania Division  
National Deer Association  
Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists  
Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited

CC:

Members of the Senate Committee on Regulations and Executive Nominations

Senator John Gordner, Vice Chair .  
Jake Corman, President Pro Tempore  
Senator Ryan Aument  
Senator Camera Bartolotta  
Senator Michele Brooks  
Senator Mike Regan  
Senator Mario Scavello  
Senator Judy Ward  
Senator Gene Yaw  
Senator Maria Collett  
Senator Wayne Fontana  
Senator Vincent Hughes  
Senator Katie Muth  
Senator Anthony Williams  
Senator John Yudichak

Sources:

Source 1: [Commissioner vacancies for Pennsylvania Game Commission](#)