



Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Inc.

Organized in 1921 Incorporated in 1933

Fighting for Liberty, Conservation, Wildlife, and our Natural Resources Since 1921

P.O. Box 205, Presto, PA 15142

www.acslpa.org

Klint Macro
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RE: 2/20/2020 Game and Fisheries Hearing Testimony

Dear Honorable Members of the House Game and Fisheries Committee,

It was good to meet some of you at the House Game and Fisheries Committee Hearing held in Charleroi on Thursday February 20th, 2020. I am glad that the Committee is getting involved in seeking resolution and ending the controversy surrounding the Saturday opener of rifle deer season after Thanksgiving.

Upon reflection of the testimony presented, I am duty bound to correct a statement made by Commissioner Denny Fredericks and reaffirm the position of The Allegheny County Sportsmen's League.

Commissioner Denny Fredericks, PAGC Commissioner representing District 2, made statements that he had communicated with and heard from Clubs and Leagues in his district voicing their support of the Saturday Opener. Commissioner Fredericks represents Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties and I can say that the Allegheny County Sportsmen's League, one of the largest in his district, was NOT contacted by the Commissioner about this issue. As a matter of fact, I sent a position letter about the Saturday Opener to the Pennsylvania Game Commission in April of 2019 explicitly voicing our opposition. ([link to original correspondence](#) listed below).

PAGC Director Burhans responded to our April 2019 opposition letter and wrote: "... the board recognizes that there are organizations, such as the one you represent, that do not support the change and prefers the traditional Monday opener." Director Burhans, also said, "If the desired result is not occurring, and the Saturday opener does not gain support once it has been implemented, the Board will take those factors into consideration when setting the season date for future hunting seasons." (complete letter attached below).

ACSL is one of the largest Sportsmen's Leagues in Pennsylvania and is based in the geographic center of Commissioner Fredericks' district. We stated our opinion clearly. I find the Commissioner's statement made in 2/20/2020 testimony to be misleading.

This is yet another example of the PAGC either being out of touch with the Hunters of Pennsylvania, or perhaps an example of their disregard for their actual opinion.

Each year, I personally attend the PAGC Hunter Education Instructor update. I have been, and will continue to be a staunch supporter of education. In 2019, during the in service training, in Delmont, PA, it was said that the vast majority of opinions offered during last year's comment period regarding the Saturday Opener were in opposition to it. However, the PAGC wanted to "try it out" in spite of the wishes of the license buying hunters of the Commonwealth.

I have seen this time and time again. Whether it be the Saturday opener, chronic wasting disease research, or semi-auto center-fire for large game, the PAGC has a track record of doing what it wants to do, bending to the political will of the Governor, and disregarding "The People" while advocating for "Turnpike Commission-Style" independence from the Legislature.

I was very pleased with the testimony offered by my colleague, Mr. Randy Santucci from Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania. He was able to substantiate one of my major concerns voiced in my opposition letter of April 2019.

As a native of Cameron County, I warned of the negative economic impact that the Saturday opener would have on the people of the Northern Tier Counties. Unfortunately, the numbers show that I was correct.

I know that many of you are on the Tourism committee. My mother, Carol Graham, headed the Cameron County Tourism Promotion Agency back in the late 1980's and early 1990's. I know first hand how "Buck Season" and "Trout Season" are the prime time money making weekends for businesses, churches, fire departments, Lions clubs, Mason lodges, and other organizations. Using an analogy made by Commissioner Fredericks, "The Juice" is certainly not worth "The Squeeze".

I have CC'd PAGC Executive Director, Bryan Burhans, and each of the Commissioners. I welcome any comments and discussions. As a matter of fact I invite each of you to the April 9th, 2020 Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Meeting being held at Clairton Sportsmen's Club, in Clairton, PA. Director Burhans will be our guest and I am opening the meeting to the general public. On Thursday, Director Burhans informed me that Commissioner Fredericks intends on attending the meeting. I have also been informed that Senator Jim Brewster, Minority Chair of the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee will be in attendance.

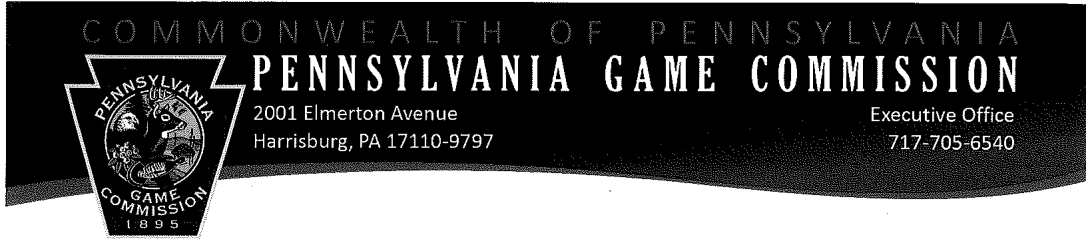
I trust that this Committee will recognize the folly of the PAGC, and will guide and correct the Commission to represent the best interests of "The People".

Yours Most Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Klint Macro", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Klint Macro
President of The Allegheny County Sportsmen's League

http://triggerpressersunion.com/uploads/3/5/2/5/35250514/acsl_letter_to_pagc_commissioners_re_sat_opener.pdf



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Dear Mr. Macro:

I am in receipt of your correspondence regarding the changing of the opening day of firearm deer season from the Monday to Saturday. Thank you for sharing your comments and expressing the views of your membership.

As you know, the Board of Commissioners made this change in an effort to accommodate the needs of our younger hunters, who are unable to take off of school or work, and thus are disadvantaged by a Monday opener.

Keeping those younger hunters involved in the sport is integral to the future of wildlife management and conservation in the Commonwealth, and this move was made with those long-term effects in mind.

Nonetheless, the Board recognizes that there are organizations, such as the one you represent, that do not support the change and prefers the traditional Monday opener.

Accordingly, the Board is committed to evaluating the Saturday opener and measuring whether it is having its intended effect. If the desired result is not occurring, and the Saturday opener does not gain support once it has been implemented, the Board will take those factors into consideration when setting the season date for future hunting seasons.

But we cannot know what kind of impact a Saturday opener will have without making this change and allowing it to run its course for this year. While I know you did not initially favor the change, I nonetheless ask for your support in allowing it to proceed for this year, and to keep an open mind when evaluating its effectiveness. The Board will need to hear from your organization as it considers future proposals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Bryan Burhans'.

Bryan Burhans
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Game Commission