



Audubon Mid-Atlantic – Chesapeake Bay Foundation – Conservation Voters of PA – Ducks Unlimited – Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds – Lancaster Farmland Trust – Natural Lands – PennFuture – Pennsylvania Environmental Council – Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation – Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society – Rails-to-Trails Conservancy – Sierra Club PA Chapter – The Conservation Fund – The Nature Conservancy PA/DE Chapter – The Trust for Public Land – Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership – Trout Unlimited – WeConservePA – Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

## Open Letter to Members of the Pennsylvania House Re. HB 1300's Threat to Wildlife and Federal Funding 9/14/2023

The partner organizations of the Growing Greener Coalition, on behalf of our hundreds of thousands of supporters and hundreds of allied organizations across the Commonwealth, urge you to **oppose HB 1300 as it is written**. HB 1300 proposes the transfer of \$150 million from the Pennsylvania Game Fund, which funds Pennsylvania Game Commission operations and programs, to the Clean Streams Fund.

The water quality projects supported by the Clean Streams Fund are important to the well-being of Pennsylvanians, and the Coalition strongly encourages members of the General Assembly to establish stable funding for the Fund. However, **taking from the Game Fund is neither prudent nor sustainable**.

The Coalition urges legislators to consider the Game Commission's full impact on the Commonwealth—the benefits provided both to the general public and sportsmen and women. The Commission provides vital services ranging from wildlife conservation and habitat restoration to disease monitoring and control, from providing outdoor recreational opportunities to assisting private landowners in achieving better conservation outcomes.

For the Commission to remain a vital force, it is imperative that it have the resources necessary to continue their efficient and effective programmatic work—the resources provided by the Game Fund. Diverting money away from the Game Fund would be devastating: (1) the loss of the \$150 million means the disinvestment of \$150 million in the work and the evisceration of Commission staffing and expertise; and (2) this loss most likely triggers the **stripping away of federal Pittman-Robertson funds**, which constitute a large portion of the Commission's budget.

Pennsylvania received nearly **\$42 million in federal Pittman-Robertson funds** in 2023. Pennsylvania's eligibility for these funds is dependent on the Commission's ability to control revenue derived from state sales of hunting and fishing licenses. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service strictly enforces the eligibility

requirements. For example, this year the Service [withheld \\$22 million from Minnesota](#) due to a violation of federal conditions.

Again, the Growing Greener Coalition urges you to oppose HB 1300 as written. It just doesn't make sense as it would both damage state finances and crush the Commission's ability to carry out its work.

For more information, please reach out to the people of the Growing Greener Coalition's partner organizations, including:

**Audubon Mid-Atlantic**

Aneca Atkinson, Director, Delaware River Watershed Program  
[Aneca/atkinson@audubon.org](mailto:Aneca/atkinson@audubon.org)

**Conservation Voters of PA**

Katie Blume, Political & Legislative Director  
[katie@conservationpa.org](mailto:katie@conservationpa.org)

**Ducks Unlimited**

Nikki Ghorpade, Manager, Government Affairs  
[nghorpade@ducks.org](mailto:nghorpade@ducks.org)

**Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds**

R. John Dawes, Executive Director  
[rjdawes1@pennsylvaniawatersheds.org](mailto:rjdawes1@pennsylvaniawatersheds.org)

**Natural Lands**

Oliver P. Bass, President  
[oliver.bass@natlands.org](mailto:oliver.bass@natlands.org)

**PennFuture**

Adam Nagel, Director of Government Affairs  
[nagle@pennfuture.org](mailto:nagle@pennfuture.org)

**Pennsylvania Environmental Council**

John Walliser, Senior Vice President  
[jwalliser@pecpa.org](mailto:jwalliser@pecpa.org)

**Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation**

Marci Mowery, President  
[mmowery-ppff@pa.net](mailto:mmowery-ppff@pa.net)

**Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society**

Tim Herd, CEO  
[herd@prps.org](mailto:herd@prps.org)

**Sierra Club PA Chapter**

Jen Quinn, Legislative and Political Director  
[jen.quinn@sierraclub.org](mailto:jen.quinn@sierraclub.org)

**Rails-to-Trails Conservancy**

Tom Sexton, Northeast Regional Director  
[tom@railstotrails.org](mailto:tom@railstotrails.org)

**The Conservation Fund**

Kyle D. Shenk, Northeast Region Director  
[kshenk@conservationfund.org](mailto:kshenk@conservationfund.org)

**The Nature Conservancy, PA/DE Chapter**

Evan Endres, PA Director of Government Relations and Policy  
[evan.endres@tnc.org](mailto:evan.endres@tnc.org)

**Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**

Alexandra Kozak, Pennsylvania Field Organizer  
[akozak@trcp.org](mailto:akozak@trcp.org)

**The Trust for Public Land**

Owen Franklin, PA State Director  
[owen.franklin@tpl.org](mailto:owen.franklin@tpl.org)

**Trout Unlimited**

Emily Baldauff, Mid-Atlantic Policy Program Manager  
[emily.baldauff@tu.org](mailto:emily.baldauff@tu.org)

**WeConservePA**

Andrew M. Loza, Executive Director  
[aloza@weconservepa.org](mailto:aloza@weconservepa.org)

**Western Pennsylvania Conservancy**

Cynthia Carrow, Vice President  
[ccarrow@paconserve.org](mailto:ccarrow@paconserve.org)