

ENDORSEMENTS FOR PASSAGE OF HB 1483

Prepared for Members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives

The following are documented as supporting passage of House Bill 1483. This **Exhibit A** is a small portion of the sportsmen and outdoor-loving citizens, businesses, and organizations of the Commonwealth who endorse the bill.

I. On-Line, Single-Signature iPetition..... 1,501 Signatures

An iPetition was posted on a newly created website (<https://www.friendsofpennsylvaniawildlife.org>). People of all walks of life across the entire Commonwealth signed the ipetition during about a two-month period -- from sportsmen and camp owners to all those who wish for a healthy ecosystem with abundant wildlife. This represents only a brief and limited sampling of people who dislike PGC's deer and wildlife management programs and who endorse HB 1483. **All House and Senate members are urged to read the hundreds of eye-opening comments that were posted. (See Exhibit B.)**

II. Hard-Copy, Single-Signature Petition..... 1,296 Signatures

During about a 30-day period, blank petition sheets were placed in a few select businesses primarily in Union and Snyder Counties to determine the desire for passage of HB 1483 by citizens who did not have access to electronic devices. This represents a microcosm of the many tens-of-thousands of signatures that would likely have resulted if these petition sheets had been distributed throughout the 67 counties of Pennsylvania. (See Exhibit C.)

III. Large Groups Signing the iPetition..... Representing 9,650 Signers

- Sinnemahoning Sportsmen's Club: Representing 4,700 members.
- Union County Sportsmen's Club: Representing 4,000 members.
- Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Association: Representing 950 members.

Subtotal Petition Signatures (I, II, and III above)..... 12,447 Signatures

IV. Phone Survey of Businesses & Organizations..... 109 out of 110 Businesses

At the request of legislators, a 72-hour telephone survey was conducted in 2016 to determine the validity of PGC's claim "*that a majority of hunters are in approval of the agency's deer-management program*". The survey included 110 sportsmen clubs, businesses, and chambers of commerce from the central and northern-tier counties. Of the 110 contacts, 109 were in favor of legislative reform, and only one call resulted in favor of PGC. This represents only a small microcosm of the many thousands of businesses and hundreds of thousands of sportsmen who want dramatic deer management reform. (See Exhibit D.)

V. Large Statewide-Organization Letters of Endorsement..... Representing 537,000 Members

- Allegheny County Sportsmen's League: The voice of 200,000 sportsmen.
- Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania: Representing 70,000-100,000 members.
- Eastern Pennsylvania Firearms Coalition: Representing 150,000-175,000 members.
- Firearm Owners Against Crime: With over 2,000 political-activist coordinators in PA and over 107,000 contacts.
- Pennsylvania State Camp Association: Representing 5,000 state-leased camps and over 60,000 members.

VI. Regional & Statewide Organization Support..... Representing 8,037 Members

- Mosquito Creek Sportsmen's Association: Representing 6,000 members.
- May Hollow Sportsmen's Club: Representing 900 members.
- Bucktail Rod & Gun: Representing 800 members.
- Rapid Run Rod & Gun Club: Representing 19 members.
- Half-Way Rod & Gun Club: Representing 18 members.
- West Decatur Sportsmans Club: Representing 300 members.

VII. Support of Chambers of Commerce..... Representing 2,000-3,000 Businesses

Though unable to speak for all members, five chamber administrators requested legislative deer management reform.

- Cameron County Chamber of Commerce: Representing 110 businesses.
- Clearfield Chamber of Commerce: Representing over 320 businesses and organizations.
- Lycoming County Chamber of Commerce: Representing 937 businesses and organizations.
- DuBois Chamber of Commerce: Serving 14 municipalities and townships.
- Ridgway-Elk County Chamber of Commerce: Representing about 200 members.

