

January 24, 2014



Dear Representative:

On behalf of the undersigned conservation and environmental organizations, we urge you to oppose House Bill 1576 and Senate Bill 1047. These proposals would undermine the ability of our wildlife management agencies to protect the mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians of the Commonwealth.

The current process allows scientists and wildlife management experts from the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission to designate state threatened and endangered species, and wild trout streams in the case of the Fish & Boat Commission, on the basis of the best scientific data available. Among our serious concerns with the legislation, House Bill 1576 and Senate Bill 1047 would subject these decisions to an additional, lengthy and cumbersome regulatory review process requiring the approval of persons with no particular expertise in science or wildlife management.

The manner in which the commissions list species is deliberate, grounded in scientific data, subject to rigorous analysis and review by other scientists and resource professionals, and open to public comment.

Protecting species at the state level is the most effective way to prevent their decline and extinction nationally. Effective state conservation programs are critical to avoiding a listing under the federal Endangered Species Act, and the requirements that accompany such a designation.

We urge you to protect the wildlife of Pennsylvania and oppose House Bill 1576 and Senate Bill 1047.

Sincerely,

Steve Stroman
Policy Director
*Citizens for Pennsylvania's
Future (PennFuture)*

Tom Au
Conservation Chair
*Sierra Club, Pennsylvania
Chapter*

John Walliser
Vice-President
*Pennsylvania Environmental
Council*

Myron Arnowitt
Pennsylvania State Director
Clean Water Action



David Masur
Director
PennEnvironment

Harry L. Campbell III
Pennsylvania Executive Director
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Philip S. Wallis
Vice-President and Executive
Director
Audubon Pennsylvania

Curt Ashenfelter
Executive Director
Keystone Trails Association

Liz G. Deardorff
Clean Water Supply Director
American Rivers

Molly K. Morrison
President
Natural Lands Trust

Cathy Reuscher
Mid-Atlantic Policy Associate
Appalachian Mountain Club

Ron Ramsey
Senior Policy Advisor
*The Nature Conservancy,
Pennsylvania Chapter*

Joshua McNeil
Executive Director
*Conservation Voters of
Pennsylvania*

Richard Martin
Coordinator
Pennsylvania Forest Coalition

Dennis O. Miranda
Executive Director
*Wissahickon Valley Watershed
Association*