



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS  
PENNSYLVANIA**

**Subject:** Support of House Bill 207

**To:** Chairman Keith Gillespie  
Chairman Ed Neilson

The Pennsylvania Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) supports the efforts by Representative Mullery and requests a positive vote on **House Bill 207**.

BHA's mission is to ensure North America's outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting, through education and work on behalf of wild public lands and waters. The Pennsylvania chapter is one of the fastest growing groups of sportsmen and women who advocate for access to public lands as well as the ability to hunt and fish.

House Bill 207 would modernize the hunting licensing system and enhance access. The measure would not preclude county treasurers as authorized issuing agents, it does remove them as the sole issuer, as they are now.

The current mail-in system, designed many years ago when county lines were boundaries for hunting activities, involves managing a complicated paper application, two pink envelopes and a check or money order and mailing it all to one of 67 county treasurers by a certain date. Hunters may have to do this several times a season if they seek more than one antlerless tag. This is a process rife with opportunity for mistakes and delays and causes significant frustration among the state's deer hunters.

House Bill 207 would improve access for all to antlerless deer licenses by allowing for simple online application and remove the burden of the antiquated mail-in application system.

More importantly, the burdensome mail-in system may be a barrier to hunting for new people just starting out in the sport and to Pennsylvania hunters living elsewhere, such as college students and those serving in the military. At a time when just about everyone in the hunting universe is working to attract new folks to the pursuit, roadblocks like the current antiquated antlerless license mail in system simply must go.

This modernization of the antlerless licensing system would help ensure no hunters are excluded from acquiring their antlerless license in a timely manner. Additionally, this legislation has the full support of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, whom would be responsible for administering the licenses.

BHA Pennsylvania Chapter's board of directors urge you to bring this bill to the committee for a positive vote. Thank you for the consideration. If you have any questions please contact BHA's representative, John Kline at [john@klineassociatesltd.com](mailto:john@klineassociatesltd.com).

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