

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

September 30, 2005

Mr. Vernon Ross
Executive Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Director Ross:

On behalf of NRA members and hunters throughout Pennsylvania I am writing to express our concern pertaining to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's decision to dramatically reduce the number of pheasants released through the stocking program. Over the past several weeks, my office has received numerous phone calls and letters regarding the Commission's press release which indicates a nearly one half reduction of PGC's pheasant stocking program for 2005. It is without doubt, that this decrease will severely impact hunters throughout the state.

While we understand that the Game Commission is attempting to cut costs, we feel that severely decreasing a popular hunting opportunity is the wrong way to do so. For many new hunters, especially youth hunters, pheasant hunting is how they are introduced to our sport. With fewer pheasants in the field it is likely that many new hunters will not get a chance to hunt pheasant, or they will not have a quality experience when they do hunt pheasant. The end result will be that Pennsylvania will struggle to recruit new hunters, a situation devastating to license sales as well as the future of our sport.

Surely, there are other areas where savings can be realized besides the pheasant stocking program. Of all the Game Commission programs there are few that have such a direct impact on the hunting opportunities and hunter satisfaction. It seems unwise to cut such a program. I respectfully urge the Commission to restore the pheasant-stocking program to its previous level, if it can't be done this year then please do so before the 2006-07 season.

Sincerely,

Dawson Hobbs
Manager of Hunting Policy
NRA Institute for Legislative Action