

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Game Commission (Commission) has received numerous solicitations from various industrial wind energy developers interested in erecting wind turbines on State Game Lands (SGLs) over the past few years; and

WHEREAS, The Commission recognizes the significant value of exploring alternative energy resources and renewable energy initiatives within this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, The Commission has determined that the protection of wildlife habitat values and their associated recreational use of SGLs are one of the Commission's highest priorities; and

WHEREAS, The Commission has further determined that evaluation and approval of wind energy projects on SGLs must be completed in strict accordance with the mandates of the Game and Wildlife Code (34 Pa.C.S. §§ 101 *et seq.*)(Code) to ensure the protection and conservation of the Commonwealth's wildlife resources and promotion of recreational opportunities on SGLs; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution (Pa. Const. Art. I, § 27) mandates that the public natural resources of the Commonwealth, including SGLs and their associated flora and fauna, are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth, including the Board of Game Commissioners, as trustee of the public natural resources, is charged with conserving and maintaining those resources for the benefit of all the people; and

WHEREAS, The Commission drafted guidance in 2005 to aid in its evaluation of proposed wind energy development on SGLs; and

WHEREAS, Nineteen (19) SGLs have been targeted by industrial wind energy developers since 2005, some multiple times; and

WHEREAS, To date, all of the wind energy proposals submitted to the Commission were determined to have a high probability of adversely impacting wildlife resources and the recreational uses associated with SGLs and were therefore not approved; and

WHEREAS, The Commission has recognized the need to provide a clear policy concerning the potential for future wind energy development on SGLs; and

WHEREAS, The Commission has generally determined that the high probability of adverse impacts to wildlife resources and recreational uses caused by wind energy development on SGLs is incompatible with its mandates under the Code to protect, propagate, manage and preserve the game and wildlife of the Commonwealth and promote recreational opportunities on SGLs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Game Commission does hereby declare as policy that wind energy development on State Game Lands to be inconsistent with the responsibilities of the Pennsylvania Game Commission under both the Game and Wildlife Code and Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Given under the hand and seal of the Board of Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Game Commission on this 24th day of April, 2018.

Timothy S. Layton, President

James R. Daley, Vice President

Stanley J. Knick, Jr., Secretary

Brian H. Hoover

Charlie E. Fox

Michael F. Mitrick