



Senator Lisa M. Boscola Applauds House Game & Fisheries Committee for Advancing Bald Eagle Protection Bill

By Joe Kelly

HARRISBURG, PA – November 14, 2023 – Senator Lisa M. Boscola (D-Northampton) commended the House Game & Fisheries Committee for its favorable passage (22-2) earlier today of her bill (SB709). This most recent successful vote helps take a significant step forward in the protection of bald eagles in our Commonwealth, establishing stronger penalties for the killing of bald and golden eagles, safeguarding our nation's symbol.

"I have sponsored this bill to protect bald and golden eagles and have advocated for its passage over multiple legislative sessions. The bald eagle holds immense representation on seals, buildings, monuments, and state flags, including ours. It is our duty to ensure their continued presence in our skies," said Senator Boscola.

Senate Bill 709 has seen progress through various legislative sessions, with the latest version receiving overwhelming support from the Senate Chamber (48-2) earlier this summer.

The unfortunate trend of eagle poaching continues to plague the United States, making it imperative for Pennsylvania to take proactive measures. Senator Boscola emphasized, "Disturbing cases in Oregon, Minnesota, Texas, and Washington over the last few years have shown that occurrences of eagle poaching still exist. With the successful return of the Bald Eagle off the endangered list, more and more will be seen in the wild. We want to send a message to potential poachers—'you cannot afford this. We are taking this seriously.'"

To address the issue, SB709 establishes a specific penalty of a \$2,000 summary offense for killing a bald or golden eagle in Pennsylvania, a significant increase from the current \$200 fine. The enhanced penalty is designed to serve as a deterrent against engaging in such harmful acts and to ensure the continued protection of these majestic birds.



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