

**HARRISBURG OFFICE**

SENATE BOX 203030  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3030  
PHONE: 717-787-5490 • FAX: 717-783-5192

**BLAIR COUNTY OFFICE**

1904 NORTH JUNIATA STREET  
HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648  
PHONE: 814-695-8386 • FAX: 814-695-8398  
TOLL FREE: 1-866-509-3424

**FULTON COUNTY OFFICE**

201 LINCOLN WAY WEST, SUITE 102  
MCCONNELLSBURG, PA 17233  
PHONE: 717-485-3616 • FAX: 717-485-4207

[senatorjudyward.com](http://senatorjudyward.com)



**Senate of Pennsylvania**

SENATOR  
**JUDY WARD**  
30TH DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES**

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STATE GOVERNMENT

June 3, 2019

Mr. Bryan Burhans  
Executive Director Pennsylvania Game Commission  
2001 Elmerton Ave.  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Executive Director Burhans,

As you know, my legislative district has been at the forefront of the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) issue. Southern Blair County at the Bedford County line seems to be ground zero for this disease. Recently, there was also a spark in Fulton County.

In light of the recent audit of your Agency by Auditor General Eugene DePasquale which raises serious issues with the financial management of the agency, I would ask your consideration of two issues:

- An aerial study to determine a more accurate count of the number of deer in southern Blair County near the Bedford County border
- Additional dollars for the purpose of a study to more closely look at the problem of CWD—causes, spread, and treatment

As you know, Congressman John Joyce is pushing legislation at the federal level to help secure funding to study CWD. Given the amount of funding that Pennsylvania Game Commission has in reserve and the serious nature of this disease in the Commonwealth, I am urging the Commission to take whatever steps necessary to authorize the release of some of these monies as you undertake a comprehensive review of your finances.

My priority is to ensure a healthy deer population and to save our deer herd. I want to make sure there are ample opportunities for local sportsmen now and in the future. That said, I would appreciate your attention to these items and ask that you respond to my letter in a timely fashion.

Mr. Bryan Burhans  
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Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Ward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Judy Ward  
State Senator – 30<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Congressman John Joyce  
Representative Jim Gregory  
Representative Lou Schmitt  
Representative Jesse Topper  
Matt Johnson, Sportsmen for the Future