



## **QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

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Date: 15 February 2018  
To: Senate Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee  
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation  
Re: House Bill 1390

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On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to support House Bill 1390 which would provide a harvest reporting program for white-tailed deer and wild turkeys. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide, and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

Hunters play an important role in Mississippi's societal and economic well being. Hunters provide a free ecological service to society by managing wildlife populations and provide \$2 billion annually to Mississippi's economy. Unfortunately, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks does not have a good system of monitoring the annual deer and turkey harvests.

This bill seeks to establish a better system of collecting data which will allow better management of the wildlife resources. The vast majority of state wildlife agencies require harvest reporting, and this bill would bring Mississippi in line with other states' requirements. Fortunately, there would be no cost to hunters, and they would have 72 hours to report their harvest via a cellular phone app, online, or through a toll-free telephone number. In essence, this reporting procedure would closely follow Alabama's highly successful "Game Check" system.

House Bill 1390 would be good for Mississippi's white-tailed deer and wild turkey management programs, Mississippi hunters, and the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. As such, I strongly encourage you to support House Bill 1390. Thanks for your commitment to Mississippi's natural resources, and please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams  
Director of Conservation