



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 160 • 170 Whitetail Way • Bogart, GA 30622
PHONE: 800.209.3337 • FAX: 706.353.0223 • www.QDMA.com

Date: 2 February 2018
To: House Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: Senate Bill 375

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to support Senate Bill 375 which would expand Sunday hunting opportunities. 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.

The QDMA advocates the expansion of Sunday hunting in Virginia for the following reasons:

- **Sunday hunting could provide additional recreational opportunity for Virginia hunters**
- **Sunday hunting could provide additional opportunity for hunters to help manage wildlife populations**
- **Sunday hunting could increase hunter participation and recruitment rates**
- **Sunday hunting could help rural economies**

Hunters play an important role in Virginia's societal and economic wellbeing. Hunters provide a free ecological service to society by managing deer and other wildlife populations and provide over \$863 million annually to Virginia's economy. Unfortunately, the number of hunters in Virginia is decreasing. One suggested reason for this decline is the lack of available time for hunting.

The opportunity for expanded Sunday hunting could provide additional time for afield and help slow this negative trend. Many hunters are limited in their hunting activity to weekends due to long work weeks and conflicts with other social activities. Essentially, the addition of Sunday hunting would effectively double the number of available days for this segment of the hunting population. Similarly, it would provide ample opportunity for youth to hunt without conflicting with school or team sports (which typically occur on Saturdays), and therefore help hunter recruitment rates.

For the reasons stated above, the QDMA urges you to support Senate Bill 375. Thank you for your time and your commitment to Virginia's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation