



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 18 April 2018
To: Agriculture Committee
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: House Bill 5772

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to state our support for House Bill 5772 which would create a chronic wasting disease (CWD) fund within the State Treasury. 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.

Nearly every deer hunter has heard of CWD, and unfortunately more are being directly impacted by it each year. Chronic Wasting Disease is an always fatal disease found in most deer species, including elk, moose, mule and white-tailed deer, and CWD has now been identified in 25 U.S. states, three Canadian provinces, Korea (from an elk imported from Canada in 1997), Finland and Norway. Contagions spread through urine, feces, saliva, blood, deer parts, and especially via live deer. Importantly, there is no vaccine or cure. New research shows plants uptake prions from infected soil, and hamsters that ate the plants contracted the disease. In addition, recent research provides evidence of some infection in humanized mice. These results do not cast a favorable light for CWD, deer, and American agriculture.

As such, the QDMA strongly supports House Bill 5772 that would provide critical funding to conduct research on CWD in free-ranging deer and elk, conduct research for elimination of infected prions, provide for surveillance of CWD and testing of free-ranging deer, provide for educational materials and outreach about CWD to the public, and to enforce regulations regarding the importation of cervid carcasses. We urge you to support this important legislation. Thank you for your commitment to Michigan's natural resources, and please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation