



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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23 April 2018

Governor Mary Fallin  
Oklahoma State Capitol  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 212  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Governor Fallin,

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to urge you to not sign House Bill 2885 which would authorize your state veterinarian to allow imports of cervidae from a Canadian province with chronic wasting disease (CWD). 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 chronic wasting disease (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 animals. Importantly, there is no vaccine or cure.

Currently, 32 states prohibit the importation of cervids from any county, region and/or state that is endemic for CWD, and 16 states have banned all cervid imports, regardless of origin. This means only two of 50 states (4 percent) have no specific rules and would allow importation from a state or province that contains CWD. House Bill 2885 would benefit a limited number of cervid farms while putting your state's free-ranging wildlife, and \$200+ million-dollar hunting industry at risk. At a time when most states are becoming more restrictive with regard to importation of live cervids or high-risk parts of harvested cervids, it is nearly inconceivable that Oklahoma would open its borders to captive cervids from a known CWD area. Importantly, there is no way a state veterinarian (or anyone) can tell if the animals coming into your state are CWD free.

We urge you to not allow this legislation to pass. Please contact me if I can provide additional information and thank you for your commitment to Oklahoma's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams  
Director of Conservation