



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 6 June 2018

To: Environmental Conservation Committee

From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation

Re: Assembly Bill 7778 / Senate Bill 7202

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to support Assembly Bill 7778 and Senate Bill 7202 which would allow for the taking of mourning doves as a migratory game bird. 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 New York's societal and economic well being. Hunters provide a free ecological service to society by managing deer and other wildlife populations and provide more than \$1 billion annually to New York's economy. Paramount to sustaining New York's abundant natural resources and hunting heritage is the wise management of wildlife populations and hunting opportunities. Fortunately, New York currently offers high-quality big game, upland bird and waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Mourning doves are the most abundant and widely-distributed game birds in North America. They are hunted in nearly 40 states annually, and fall population estimates surpass 400 million birds. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation's 2012-13 Industry Reference Guide more than 1.2 million dove hunters spent nearly 6 million days afield in 2008. Dove hunting provides a tremendous economic incentive to New York and a unique hunting opportunity for New York's sportsmen and women.

Dove populations support a hunting season and New York's citizenry reaps the benefits for the opportunity to hunt doves. For the above reasons the QDMA strongly supports Assembly Bill 7778 and Senate Bill 7202. Thanks for your consideration of this important matter and for your commitment to New York's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation