



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Mrs. Jamie Woodson, Chair
Tennessee Fish and Game Commission
440 Hogan Rd.
Nashville, TN 37220

Dear Mrs. Woodson,

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to support the proposal to prohibit importation of cervid carcasses originating outside of Tennessee in order to prevent the spread of 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.

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, 3 Canadian provinces, Korea and Norway. Contagions spread through urine, feces, saliva, blood, deer parts, and especially via live deer. Importantly, there is no vaccine or cure. 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.

CWD is also very, very expensive. For example, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Texas had been testing about 2,500 deer per year for a cost of \$75,000. However, once CWD was confirmed in 2 captive white-tailed deer herds TPWD had to test 7,000 deer in 2015 for a cost to sportsmen and women of \$210,000! That money could have been far better spent on habitat acquisition and management, hunter access, and other hunter related items.

The prions that cause CWD are present in numerous body parts of infected animals including the brain, spine, and eyes. Therefore, numerous states do not allow these parts to be brought into the state from other states/provinces with CWD. This prohibition is helpful to reduce transmission of CWD, and Tennessee can further safeguard its deer herd and hunters by not allowing these high-risk parts to be imported from any state or province. Please contact me if I can provide additional information, and thanks for your commitment to Tennessee's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation