



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: 7 February 2019
To: House Committee on Natural Resources
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: H.R. 837

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to support H.R. 837, the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Transmission in Cervidae Study Act. 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 26 U.S. states, four 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 H.R. 837. This bill would support much-needed research into methods to detect CWD in pre- and post-mortem circumstances, in addition to strategies for halting the spread of the disease.

Thank you for your attention to this important legislation and your commitment to our nation's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation