



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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24 January 2019

Senator Susan Glick  
Chair, Committee on Natural Resources  
200 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Senator Glick,

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 610 which would establish a state forestry commission, specify its membership, and require the commission to create a management plan for state forests. 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.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry is already responsible for managing these forests, so the proposed commission is unnecessary and would undermine Division of Forestry staff. The proposed commission also does not include a position for a certified forester. While the QDMA is a big proponent of public engagement in natural resource management, professional foresters are needed to apply sound science in managing Indiana's forests, and public engagement is already occurring through the state forest action planning process.

For these reasons we encourage you to oppose Senate Bill 610. Thank you for your attention to this important legislation and your commitment to Indiana's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams  
Director of Conservation