



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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To: Oklahoma House of Representatives  
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation, QDMA  
Re: House Joint Resolution 1022  
Date: 2 May 2019

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On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), I am writing to implore you to oppose House Joint Resolution (HJR) 1022 which would disapprove rules promulgated by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's (ODWC) Commission to empower ODWC to do more to control 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. Founded in 1988, 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 impacted by it each year. CWD is an always fatal disease found in all native North American cervids (members of the deer family) including elk, moose, mule and white-tailed deer, and it has now been identified in 26 U.S. states, three Canadian provinces, Korea, Finland and Norway. Contagions spread through urine, feces, saliva, blood, deer parts, and especially via live animals. Importantly, there is no vaccine, no cure and no practical live animal test.

Currently, 26 states prohibit importation of live cervids from states or portions thereof that are endemic for CWD, and 15 states have banned importation regardless of origin or CWD status. This means only Oklahoma and eight other states allow importation from states or provinces that are CWD-positive. Supporting HJR 1022 would place your state's free-ranging deer and elk, and its \$200+ million-dollar hunting industry at great risk. At a time when nearly all states are becoming more restrictive with regard to importation of live deer and elk or high-risk parts from hunter-harvested animals, it is nearly inconceivable that Oklahoma would keep its borders open to importation from known CWD areas and not implement appropriate carcass transport regulations for hunter-harvested deer and elk. These activities are the two most common routes for potential introduction and spread of CWD. Importantly, there is no way a state veterinarian (or anyone) can tell if the animals coming into your state are CWD free.

We strongly urge you to oppose House Joint Resolution 1022 and allow ODWC to protect Oklahoma's wild deer and elk – and the hundreds of thousands of hunters who pursue them annually. Title 800 rules relating to tagging requirements, importation restriction, and authority for an appropriate CWD response are all positive for Oklahoma's citizens and wildlife resources. Please contact me if I can provide additional information and thank you for your attention on this important matter.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams  
Director of Conservation