QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 28 May 2019
To: Conservation and Natural Resources Committee
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: House Joint Resolution 18

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our opposition to HJR 18 requiring a renewal of the conservation sales tax every six years by voters of the state of Missouri. 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.

With hunter numbers dwindling, we are losing a substantial source of conservation funding. This constitutional amendment cuts further into already dwindling conservation funding mechanisms. By potentially cutting into conservation funding mechanisms this places a detriment on the outdoor recreation community and the areas it preserves for public enjoyment. Approximately 133,000 jobs depend on outdoor recreation in Missouri and there is a $14.9 billion outdoor economy on which these jobs rely. Approximately 61% of Missourians participate in outdoor recreation each year. Your constituents rely on you to represent their best interests. We strongly encourage you to continue to uphold your duty to hold wildlife in an unwavering trust for your constituents.

We respectfully ask you to oppose HJR 18 as it would adversely affect those opportunities that so many Missourians have come to cherish. We ask that you take into consideration those opportunities as you move forward on this piece of legislation. We would like to sincerely thank you for your time on this issue and dedication to preserving the values of your constituents.

Respectfully,

Jacob D. Pries

Policy Intern

Quality Deer Management Association