



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 5 June 2019
To: The House Natural Resources Committee
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: S. 258 Ruby Mountains Protection Act

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for S. 258 introduced by Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) and respectfully ask that you support this vital piece of legislation, as well. 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 Ruby Mountains located in the state of Nevada are a national treasure. The United States of America is fortunate enough to have a vast collection of the natural wonders of the world. It is vitally important that we dedicate time and resources to ensure their continued existence for years to come, so that future generations may have the opportunity to enjoy them. Americans have a unique, unbridled connection to the land and few will find that connection to run deeper than in the hearts and minds of America's hunting community.

The deer hunting tradition, as it exists in America today, is engrained in the history of the United States. Deer hunters contribute to a nearly \$67 billion hunting industry. S. 258 the Ruby Mountains Protection Act ensures that this tradition can continue for generations to come by preserving hunting access and prohibiting oil and gas leasing on the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada.

The state of Nevada benefits from a \$12.6 billion outdoor recreation economy which contributes directly to 87,000 jobs. This economy would be placed in jeopardy if this legislation is not passed. The current economy and future generations depend on decision-makers acting on important pieces of legislation like S. 258. The time has come for you to fulfill your duty to zealously represent your constituents and your country. Do not let this opportunity to preserve a great national treasure fall through your hands. On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association, we would like to sincerely thank you for your time on this matter, consideration and your dedicated service to this country.

Respectfully,

Jacob D. Pries

Policy Intern
Quality Deer Management Association