



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 8 August 2019
To: Committee on the Budget
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Support for H.R. 3742

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for H.R. 3742 Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) and request your unwavering support of this vital piece of legislation. This legislation, introduced by Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Michigan), Jeff Fortenberry (R-Nebraska) and 60 other congressional members, received vast bi-partisan support with 116 co-sponsors in the 115th Congress. We believe that the time has come for this bill to be moved through the 116th Congress and signed into law. 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.

RAWA dedicates \$1.4 billion annually in vital funding to state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies. RAWA would provide the funding necessary to implement each respective wildlife management plan for at-risk species. The execution of these plans is vital to a vast number of species beyond just those that are listed as threatened. When executing these plans improvements to the overall habitat and entire ecosystem are welcome ancillary benefits. Additionally, the execution of these plans greatly advantages industry by avoiding the regulatory burdens of the Endangered Species Act. These plans keep species from being listed and industry from having to deal with regulatory burdens. This act truly has benefits for each facet of society.

Wildlife in the United States is held in a trust for all of the general citizenry to enjoy. You will be hard-pressed to find a group of individuals that understand and advocate for this concept more than this nation's sportsmen and women. This public ownership of wildlife is an instrumental component of the successful North American Model for Wildlife Conservation. Ethical sportsmen and women created and have supported the North American Model for the past century. Unfortunately, without the necessary wildlife management funds, the hunters who champion conservation will no longer be able to see a healthy ecosystem in which all wildlife thrives.

Whitetails stand to benefit immensely from the passage of RAWA and are the most popular big game animal in the United States. Whitetail hunters are the foundation of the nearly \$67 billion hunting industry. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, approximately three of every four hunters pursue whitetails. The passage of RAWA will assist wildlife managers in ensuring habitat for not only at-risk species, but all species remains in optimal condition. As support for conservation funding goes up, all wildlife and the general public benefit. The time has come to uphold your duty to defend the deeply American principle of public ownership of wildlife and support this vital piece of legislation. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time, your dedicated service to this nation, and your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern (QDMA)