



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

---

P.O. Box 160 • 170 Whitetail Way • Bogart, GA 30622  
PHONE: 800.209.3337 • FAX: 706.353.0223 • [www.QDMA.com](http://www.QDMA.com)

Date: 5 September 2019  
To: Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry  
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern  
Re: Support for S. 247

---

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for S. 247 Virginia Wilderness Additions Act of 2019 introduced by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) and respectfully request your support of 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. Founded in 1988, the QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals. The Virginia Wilderness Additions Act of 2019 would protect crucial public white-tailed deer hunting land within the George Washington National Forest by adding wilderness designations for roughly 1,000 acres onto the Rough Mountain Wilderness Area and roughly 4,600 acres onto the Rich Hole Wilderness Area.

With this increased protection, it will substantially contribute to the preservation of a white-tailed deer hunting tradition that is so deeply rooted in the history of the state of Virginia. Whitetails are the most popular big game animal in the U.S., and whitetail hunters are the foundation of a nearly \$67 billion hunting industry. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, approximately three of every four hunters pursue whitetails and according to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, \$21.30 million was raised by hunting license fees in Virginia just last year. Additionally, combined with the fishing industry, the hunting industry within Virginia brings in \$2.38 billion a year and supports 39,164 jobs. The state's 1.07 million hunters and anglers depend on the availability of public land within Virginia to partake in these time-honored traditions.

At QDMA, we believe that proper forest management practices are vital to the preservation of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and the white-tailed deer hunting tradition. With proper management of our forests being so vital to their successful preservation, it is important to note that the United States Forest Service has indicated that a wilderness designation for these areas comports with proper management practices. Following proper management guidelines ensures the continued existence of the natural treasure known as the George Washington National Forest. Additionally, we support the collaborative efforts of many stakeholder groups who have recommended this outcome for sections of the forest that we cherish thus ensuring its continued existence. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time, dedicated service to this country, and your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Jacob D. Pries  
Policy Intern  
Quality Deer Management Association