



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 22 July 2019  
To: South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern  
Re: Support for CWD Regulations

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On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our strong support for the regulations promulgated by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and respectfully request these vital regulations be enacted. 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.

CWD is nothing short of an epidemic within the wildlife community and these common-sense regulations address the expanding problem of CWD in the United States keeping South Dakota's successful hunting industry thriving. CWD is an always fatal disease found in all native North American cervids 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. Research shows plants uptake prions from infected soil, and hamsters that ate the plants contracted the disease. In addition, recent research provides evidence of some infection in humanized mice. These results do not cast a favorable light for CWD, deer, and American agriculture.

Whitetails are the most popular big game animal in the U.S., and 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. Additionally, 430,000 sportsmen and women in South Dakota contribute over \$1.04 billion annually and support 14,780 jobs. These regulations allow for the preservation of the white-tailed deer hunting culture that runs deep in the hearts of so many South Dakotans, while ensuring the necessary precautions are taken into consideration to preserve the economic contributions of hunters within your state. These necessary regulations are the next crucial step in South Dakota to address the problem of CWD being tackled across the country. On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association, we would like to thank you for your time, dedicated service to the state of South Dakota, and your consideration of this matter. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries  
Policy Intern  
Quality Deer Management Association