



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

Date: 10 October 2019
To: The House Agriculture Committee
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Support for H.R. 3879

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for H.R. 3879 Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation Act (SOAR) introduced by Rep. Debra Haaland (D-NM) 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. The QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

The Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation Act is a crucial step towards giving public lands to the people that they belong to by streamlining the process of obtaining permits to enjoy those lands. This vital piece of legislation allows for public lands to reach their fullest potential. When access is given to these tracts of land, these lands bring about experiences that cannot be placed into words. The ability to venture into the vast wilderness to discover the treasures of this nation is invaluable. By encouraging a streamlined process for obtaining recreational permits on our public lands, this act makes it possible for the citizens of the United States to test their boundaries and explore the possibilities that lie behind each access point.

With this increase in access and recreational opportunities, it increases the possibility of preserving a white-tailed deer hunting tradition that is so deeply rooted in the history of the United States. 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, \$872 million was raised by hunting license fees just last year. Additionally, since 1939 state fish and wildlife agencies have received over \$62.1 billion in funds directly from sportsmen and women. Their vital contributions to conservation and the nation's economy provide a substantial benefit that will come from the passing of this bill. The product that comes out of this act is simple, and that is the next generation of public land stewards. By decreasing the overwhelming administrative burdens felt by many to gain access to recreate on our public lands, you remedy a problem that keeps Americans from enjoying what is rightfully theirs to enjoy. As you allow for those individuals to garner experiences on our nation's public lands, you allow for those individuals to develop an unbridled passion for them that will last a lifetime. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time on this matter, your consideration and your dedicated service to this country

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern
Quality Deer Management Association