



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 17 October 2019
To: The Honorable Senator from Iowa
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Support for HF 599

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for Iowa HF 599 and respectfully request 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. Founded in 1988, the QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

Hunters are the cornerstone of conservation in the state of Iowa and across the country. They contribute significant funds to conservation through license sales and excise taxes on hunting gear. Hunters in the state of Iowa help contribute \$779 million to the state's economy while supporting 11,549 jobs within the state. Unfortunately, hunter numbers have dwindled and with this, so has the funding for conservation that so many individuals rely upon within your state. The tradition of hunting in Iowa runs deep and without the passing of measures such as HF 599, this deeply rooted tradition, along with our wild spaces are placed in jeopardy.

With your support, HF 599 has the potential to pass into law and this is a crucial step in making a difference for hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation. This bill has the potential to help preserve the hunting tradition and the wild spaces we are fortunate enough to enjoy. Through the expanded apprentice opportunities under HF 599, this allows new hunters to have the opportunity to gain necessary experience from more seasoned hunters before going afield on their own. This valuable experience gained by the new hunters allows them to become more comfortable afield and develop safe, ethical hunting practices.

Additionally, lowering the age that an individual can obtain an apprentice license will increase the opportunity for youth statewide to experience the indescribable joys the outdoors has to offer and learn valuable life lessons that accompany time afield. This includes, but is certainly not limited to, the opportunity to see their first deer appear through the trees, the satisfaction of accomplishing tasks beyond what they believe they can, the ethical obligations of fair chase and discovering the inherent value of conservation. We respectfully request you support this vital piece of legislation and usher in the next generation of conservationists. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time, consideration, and dedicated service to the state of Iowa.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern
Quality Deer Management Association