



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 18 October 2019
To: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Support for S. 487

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for Massachusetts Bill S. 487. 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 QDMA advocates for the legalization of Sunday hunting in Massachusetts for the following reasons:

- Sunday hunting could provide additional recreational opportunity for Massachusetts hunters
- Sunday hunting could provide additional opportunity for hunters to help manage deer and other wildlife populations
- Sunday hunting could increase hunter participation and recruitment rates
- Sunday hunting could help rural economies

Hunters are an important driver of the state's economy. According to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, hunters help contribute \$626 million annually to the state's economy while supporting 9,101 jobs. Additionally, hunters are crucial to conservation in the state contributing to 80% of state fish and wildlife agencies' budgets each year. They provide a free ecological service to society by managing deer and other wildlife populations. Unfortunately, the number of hunters in Massachusetts is decreasing and with that so is the funding for conservation.

One suggested reason for this decline is the lack of available time for hunting. The opportunity for Sunday hunting could provide additional time afield and help slow this negative trend. Many hunters are limited in their hunting activity to weekends due to long work weeks and conflicts with other social activities. Essentially, the addition of Sunday hunting would effectively double the number of available days for this segment of the hunting population. Similarly, it would provide ample opportunity for youth to hunt without conflicting with school or team sports (which typically occur on Saturdays), and therefore help hunter recruitment rates. For the reasons stated above, the QDMA supports S. 487 and Sunday hunting in Massachusetts. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time, consideration and dedicated service to the state of Massachusetts.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern
Quality Deer Management Association