



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 04 October 2019  
To: The Honorable Senator from Wisconsin  
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern  
Re: Support for SB 325

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On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for Wisconsin's SB 325. 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. With legislators taking the lead to address the problems surrounding chronic wasting disease (CWD) we can begin to come together and solve the problems this disease brings. It will take a combined effort between federal, state, and local governments, wildlife biologists, universities, students, conservation organizations and beyond to tackle this problem. With your leadership, we have the potential to see substantive change in the area of CWD research and solutions. CWD is nothing short of an epidemic within the wildlife community and Wisconsin stands on the edge of an extremely important time to act on this issue to keep Wisconsin's successful hunting industry thriving.

CWD is an always fatal disease found in all native North American cervids (members of the deer family) 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 various means including through high-risk deer parts. These parts include the brain, spleen, eyes, spinal cord, and lymph glands. These high-risk parts that are traditionally disposed of in the field come to risk transmission of the disease into the soil further exacerbating the spread of this devastating disease. In order to address this growing problem, the funding allocated in this bill to administer a grant program for carcass disposal is more than necessary. It will take common sense, precautionary actions to get ahead of this disease.

Hunters are the original conservationists and some of the greatest stewards of our natural resources. You will be hard pressed to find a group of individuals who care more about white-tailed deer than those who pursue them. These dumpsters will allow hunters to have a resource in the fight against CWD. This is vital. However, we recognize and stand by the DNR's suggestions for this bill as they are the individuals who are intimately linked to our natural resources. We respectfully request that you heed their suggestions which include, but are not limited to, the allowance of other eligible applicants to the grant program, the allowance of a grantee to work in more than one county or as part of a collaborative, remove the limitation on the number of dumpsters per county and consider no geographic limit on dumpster placement. These helpful suggestions are critical to a successful program and we ask that you work closely with the DNR in the implementation of this important program. With actions from our legislators, these precautionary steps can yield to sustainable solutions. On behalf of QDMA, we would like to sincerely thank you for your time, consideration and dedication to this matter.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries  
Policy Intern (QDMA)