



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 22 July 2019
To: House of Representatives
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Support for H.R. 823

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to respectfully request your support of H.R. 823 the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Economy Act. 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 state of Colorado and citizens across the country stand to benefit immensely from the passage of this act. Colorado holds some of the nation's true natural wonders. The scenic Rocky Mountains and vast wildlife have brought hunters in from across the country. Colorado has benefitted greatly from sportsmen and women within their state. According to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, in 2017 Colorado generated \$54.78 million from hunting license funds. This ranks number one in the entire country. Overall, the state generated \$101.38 million from funds generated by hunting license fees, fishing license fees, the Pittman-Robertson Act, the Dingell-Johnson Act and the Wallop-Breaux Amendment. This number ranks third among states in the country. Colorado has long benefitted from sportsmen and women's contributions to conservation and we must continue to ensure that these national treasures are preserved for years to come with the passing of H.R. 823.

With the passing of H.R. 823, this will expand opportunities for sportsmen and women to experience the outdoors, continue the hunting tradition, and improve the economic stability of Colorado's economy. Colorado is a popular destination for many deer hunters. With the expansions of the White River National Forest among others outlined in this bill, Colorado's deer hunting can continue to thrive. The \$28 billion outdoor recreation economy in Colorado and the 71% of Coloradans and vast number of tourists who participate in outdoor recreation in the state depend on the passage of this bill. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation in Colorado creates nearly four times as many direct jobs as the oil and gas industry and the mining industry combined. It is at this time, that we respectfully request that you uphold your duty to the American people and support this vital piece of legislation, thus preserving their opportunity to enjoy the deeply rooted deer hunting tradition within the state. On behalf of QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time, your dedicated service to the United States and your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern (QDMA)