



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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P.O. Box 160 • 170 Whitetail Way • Bogart, GA 30622  
PHONE: 800.209.3337 • FAX: 706.353.0223 • [www.QDMA.com](http://www.QDMA.com)

Date: 1 November 2019  
To: Iowa House Natural Resources Committee  
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern  
Re: Opposition to HF 218

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On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our opposition to Iowa HF 218 and respectfully request your opposition of this 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 resources professionals.

This piece of legislation allows for purchased deer tags to carryover if unused into the next season. On its face this, legislation may seem like a positive money saving measure, however, a deep dive into the underlying effects of this legislation reveals a devastating impact to funds dedicated to conservation in the state that will benefit these same deer hunters to a far greater extent than saving money on unused deer tags. According to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Iowa hunters helped contribute \$41.79 million in 2018 in hunting related expenses. With 80% of state fish and wildlife agencies' funds dependent upon sportsmen and women, this contribution should not be taken lightly. It is an unfortunate reality that the money dedicated for conservation has been on a steady decline as the number of Iowa hunters afield diminishes.

In order to preserve white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage we are requesting your staunch opposition to this piece of legislation. We are asking that you follow in the footsteps of conservationists who have come before you and improve Iowa's natural resources for years to come. If it were not for individuals who had come before us all making decisions to further conservation initiatives, we would not be able to enjoy the indescribable experiences the outdoors has to offer. It is now your turn to take the baton and ensure we leave this place better than we found it. You can do this by opposing HF 218 thus ensuring the dedicated funding for conservation every year through money generated by deer tag purchases.

Hunters are the original conservationists with the vast majority of hunters recognizing their place in the conservation landscape. Hunters are more than willing to continue to give back to what has given them so much, our 60,000-member base certainly speaks to that and hunter membership in various conservation organizations across the country builds off that principle. We urge you to place your stamp on the conservation legacy of Iowa and oppose this bill. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to take the time to thank you for your time, consideration, and dedicated service to the state of Iowa.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries  
Policy Intern  
Quality Deer Management Association