



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 29 October 2019
To: Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Support for New Jersey Assembly Bill 5232

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for New Jersey Assembly Bill 5232 and respectfully request your support of this vital piece of legislation as well. This bill seeks to address the growing problem of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in New Jersey by banning the importation of certain specified cervid parts into the state. 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.

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 urine, feces, saliva, blood, deer parts, and especially via live animals. Importantly, there is no vaccine, no cure and no practical live animal test. Whitetails are the most popular big game animal in the U.S., and whitetail hunters are the foundation of the nearly \$67 billion hunting industry. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, approximately three of every four hunters pursue whitetails.

According to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, New Jersey's hunters help contribute more than \$1.26 billion annually to the state's economy and support an industry that directly maintains 16,905 jobs. This bill is the next crucial step in New Jersey to address the problem of CWD being tackled across the country. New Jersey Assembly Bill 5232 would help address the growing concerns surrounding chronic wasting disease by joining the other 26 states that have banned the importation of deer parts into the state. Currently, 26 states prohibit importation of live cervids from states or portions thereof that are endemic for CWD, and 15 states have banned importation regardless of origin or CWD status. With the passing of Assembly Bill 5232, you can take the necessary first steps towards curbing CWD, maintaining your successful hunting industry, and conserving your white-tailed deer population for generations to come. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time, consideration, and dedicated service to New Jersey.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern
Quality Deer Management Association