



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 29 October 2019  
To: Senate Environment and Energy Committee  
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern  
Re: Support for Senate Bill 533

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On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for New Jersey Senate Bill 533 and request your support of this vital piece of 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 resource professionals.

New Jersey Senate Bill 533 would vastly increase the opportunities for hunting and fishing on New Jersey's public lands by providing for no net loss of DEP lands for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes. Sportsmen and women are the cornerstone of conservation in the state of New Jersey and across the country. Currently, they provide 80% of state fish and wildlife agencies' budgets every year. With the increased and maintained access for hunting opportunities, it increases the possibility of preserving a white-tailed deer hunting tradition that is so deeply rooted in the history of the state of New Jersey. Whitetails are the most popular big game animal in the U.S., and whitetail hunters are the foundation of a nearly \$67 billion hunting industry. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, approximately three of every four hunters pursue whitetails and according to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation hunters help contribute \$1.26 billion annually to New Jersey's economy while supporting 16,905 jobs. Hunters vital contributions to conservation and the nation's economy provide a substantial benefit that will come from the passing of this bill.

The product that comes out of this bill is simple, and that is the next generation of public land stewards. By increasing the access opportunities for sportsmen and women, you help remedy an access problem that keeps Americans from enjoying the full potential of their public lands. As you allow for those individuals to garner experiences on our nation's public lands, you allow for those individuals to develop an unbridled passion for them that will last a lifetime. This passion turns into action, this action turns into conservation, and this conservation turns into generations of wildlife for the people of New Jersey to enjoy. Public access is not only crucial for sportsmen and women, it is crucial to giving public lands to the people who own them, the citizens of New Jersey. With your support, we can begin to make a difference for conservation, public access, and our hunting heritage. We can leave a conservation legacy that our children and grandchildren can be proud of. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time, consideration, and dedicated service to the state of New Jersey.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries  
Policy Intern  
Quality Deer Management Association