



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 21 November 2019
To: Committee on Natural Resources and Environment
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Support for HB 166 and Subsequent Measures

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for HB 166 and any subsequent matters to further the bill's purpose which is requiring the use of a safety harnesses while deer hunting from an open deer stand. 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.

Today, the number one cause of hunting injuries is falling from a treestand. At QDMA, we believe hunter safety is of the utmost importance. We must continually ensure the safe practices of hunters afield. This piece of legislation will take an important step into that direction. According to a survey done at the Ohio State University Medical Center, of the 130 hunters admitted for injuries, 50% of the injuries were from treestand falls, 59% of those individuals had spinal fractures, and 8% of those individuals had permanent neurological defects. Another study done by The Duke University Medical Center showed that of the 27 patients who came in for treestand falls 70% of them suffered significant neurological or spinal injuries. These treestand safety harnesses when worn will mitigate and often times completely eliminate the occurrence of these injuries. There is truly no excuse for not wearing one of these harnesses. As responsible hunters it is important that we encourage safe practices and wearing a safety harness while hunting from a treestand clearly falls into that category.

We would like to respectfully request that you move this important piece of legislation through the state legislature to be signed into law within the next legislative session. This bill is a common-sense step in creating a safer hunting culture. On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association, we would like to thank you for your time, consideration, and dedicated service to the state of Louisiana.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern
Quality Deer Management Association