



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 160 • 170 Whitetail Way • Bogart, GA 30622
PHONE: 800.209.3337 • FAX: 706.353.0223 • www.QDMA.com

Date: 27 November 2019
To: Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Support for H. 754

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for Massachusetts H. 754. 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.

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. White-tailed deer hunters are an important driver of your state's economy. According to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, hunters help contribute \$626 million annually to the state's economy while supporting 9,101 jobs. Additionally, hunters are crucial to conservation funding in the state. They provide a free ecological service to society by managing deer and other wildlife populations. Unfortunately, the number of hunters in Massachusetts is decreasing and with that so is the funding for conservation.

Hunting access has been a major issue contributing to the decline of hunters across the country. Opening bowhunting access to the Wompatuck State Park will help remedy this problem. The product that will come out of this increase in access 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 Massachusetts to enjoy. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time, consideration and dedicated service to the state of Massachusetts.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern
Quality Deer Management Association