



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: 10 January 2020
To: Natural Resource Conservation Service
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Comments

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for the proposed changes to the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). 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 50,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

At QDMA, we believe the proposed changes to ACEP under the 2018 Farm Bill will make it stronger and more effective. Specifically, we support authorizing assistance to partners who pursue “buy-protect-sell” transactions, requiring a conservation plan for highly erodible land that will be protected by an agricultural land easement, and increasing flexibility for partners to meet cost-share matching requirements. In addition, we support identifying water quality as a program purpose for enrollment of wetland reserve easements.

White-tailed deer are an important driver of the economy and benefit substantially from the proposed changes to ACEP. On a national level, whitetails are the most popular big game animal, 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 our nation’s sportsmen and women support over 600,000 jobs. These sportsmen and women who care deeply for the land, the whitetails that utilize it, and conservation depend on your approval of this proposal. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time and consideration of our comments.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation