



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 17 February 2020
To: Representative Bob Thorpe
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: House Bill 2130

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to oppose House Bill 2130 which would prohibit the use of trail cameras from June 30 to December 31 for models capable of transmitting a digital image, and from July 31 to December 31 for all other trail cameras. The QDMA is an international 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 numerous wildlife and forestry professionals.

Deer hunters today are more willing to take an active role in management in order to improve a property and/or success rates. The modern deer hunter is also incredibly tech-savvy compared to the past, and has a desire to learn about their quarry more than ever before. Some of today's available technologies to hunters have drastically impacted the way many of us spend our time outdoors for the better. They also, in some cases, challenge the concept of fair-chase.

Over the last 30 years, probably no other piece of technology has changed the way we deer hunt more than the trail camera. Deer hunters love their trail cameras, and advancing technology has resulted in models that are smaller, higher in resolution, with longer battery life than ever before. This technology has the potential to cross ethical boundaries, so we conducted a national survey and asked every state's deer project leader if non-texting or text-capable trail cameras were legal to use during the hunting season. Forty-one of 42 states (98 percent) that responded to our survey allow non-texting trail cameras, and 39 of 42 (93 percent) allow texting cameras.

Some hunters welcome these forms of technology and embrace any gadget that increases their odds of success, while others feel it is ruining the experience and taking away from the skills that hunters once relied on to be successful. At QDMA, we support pursuits that are ethical, sportsmanlike and lawful, and allow harvest of white-tailed deer in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage. We do not feel trail cameras cross the ethical line, and therefore oppose House Bill 2130. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Arizona's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation