



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 17 February 2020
To: House Agriculture Committee
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: House Bill 4833

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to support House Bill 4833 which would prohibit the importation or transfer of live cervids from a region that has tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD). 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.

Nearly every deer hunter has heard of chronic wasting disease (CWD), and unfortunately more are being directly impacted by it each year. Chronic Wasting Disease is an always fatal disease found in most deer species, including elk, moose, mule and white-tailed deer, and CWD has now been identified in 25 U.S. states, three Canadian provinces, Korea (from an elk imported from Canada in 1997), Finland and Norway. Contagions spread through urine, feces, saliva, blood, deer parts, and especially via live animals. Importantly, there is no vaccine or cure.

Currently, 32 states prohibit the importation of cervids from any county, region and/or state that is endemic for CWD, and 16 states have banned all cervid imports, regardless of origin. Therefore, we urge you to support House Bill 4833. Please contact me if I can provide additional information and thank you for your commitment to Michigan's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation