



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 24 March 2020
To: Senate Conservation Committee
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: Senate Bill 273, Agricultural and Natural Resources Trustee Act

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), I am writing to state our support for Senate Bill 273, the Agricultural and Natural Resources Trustee Act. 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 50,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

The Agricultural and Natural Resources Trustee Act will help ensure the future of New Mexico's natural resources. According to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, New Mexico hunters contribute over \$44 million annually. With 80% of state fish and wildlife agencies' funds dependent upon sportsmen and women, this contribution should not be taken lightly. It is an unfortunate reality that the money dedicated for conservation has been on a steady decline as the number of New Mexico hunters afield diminishes.

In order to preserve white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage we are requesting your staunch support for this piece of legislation. We are asking that you follow in the footsteps of conservationists who have come before you and improve New Mexico's natural resources for years to come. If it were not for individuals who had come before us all making decisions to further conservation initiatives, we would not be able to enjoy the indescribable experiences the outdoors has to offer. It is now your turn to take the baton and ensure we leave this place better than we found it. You can do this by supporting Senate Bill 273 and thus ensuring dedicated funding for conservation.

Thanks for your attention to this matter and your commitment to New Mexico's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation