



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 17 February 2020

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation

Re: Senate Bill 774

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to state our support for Senate Bill 774 which would prohibit hunts guaranteeing a kill. 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.

The term "canned" hunt generally refers to the practice of providing a hunting opportunity under controlled conditions in which deer do not have a reasonable opportunity to avoid the hunter. This may include situations that approach and include put-and-take hunting in which animals are raised in pens and "hunted" after being released. Important issues include privatization of wildlife, transmission of diseases, genetic impacts, and fair chase and other social issues. Fair chase as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club as "the ethical, sportsmanlike and lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage over such animals." The QDMA opposes the practice of canned hunts for white-tailed deer.

In closing, we ask for your help in passing Senate Bill 774. The bill is good for hunters, society and Virginia's natural resources. Thank you for your consideration and please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation