



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 17 February 2020
To: Senate Natural Resources Committee
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: Senate Bill 524

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 524 which would prohibit the Natural Resources Commission from establishing bag limits for antlered deer. 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 West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for managing the wildlife resources in the state, and this includes administering the deer management program. An important component of the highly successful North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is that wildlife is held in trust by each state for its citizens to enjoy. Sportsmen and women are becoming increasingly engaged in deer management programs, and this is important as white-tailed deer are the most popular big game animal in the United States. Successful deer management requires a scientific approach that is transparent to the public and supported by hunters. It is important for state wildlife agencies to use scientifically sound variables that are measurable and well defined by a public input process.

Senate Bill 524 would circumvent this process and not allow the Natural Resources Commission to perform its stated duties. Therefore, we encourage you to oppose this legislation. Thank you for your time and your commitment to West Virginia's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation