



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 25 March 2020

To: Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee

From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation

Re: Senate Bill 263

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 263 which would authorize the Department of Agriculture and Industries to pay indemnity for captive cervids destroyed to combat 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.

Deer farming is the ranching of native or exotic deer for commercial production of antlers, venison, breeding stock, semen, huntable animals or other salable parts. Because of the potential negative effects of deer farming, several states and some Canadian provinces have banned deer farming. The most common concerns are disease transmission from farmed deer to native wildlife and domestic livestock, competition of escaped farmed deer with native species for space and forage, and hybridization between escaped farmed deer and native deer. Also of concern are conservation issues regarding the privatization of wildlife and fair chase issues related to the commercial hunting of farmed deer.

In addition, this bill threatens the \$1.8 billion hunting industry in Alabama, it endangers federal grant funds from the U.S. Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, and is fraught with issues relative to the definition of cervids, captives, owner of cervids, and more. For these reasons, the QDMA urges you to oppose Senate Bill 263. Thank you for your time and your commitment to Alabama's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation