



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 25 March 2020
To: House Rules Committee
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: House Bill 5060

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to oppose House Bill 5060, which would implement a four-point antler restriction during the deer season. 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.

As of the 2019-20 hunting season, at least 24 states had implemented some form of antler restriction. We engage on numerous antler restriction proposals annually, and we support or oppose them on a case-by-case basis using a three-part test. First, is the restriction biologically sound (will it protect the majority of yearling bucks and still make the majority of other age classes available for harvest)? Second, will it be objectively monitored to determine success or failure and/or necessary alterations? Finally, is it supported by the majority of affected hunters and landowners? If a proposal passes these criteria there is a strong chance it will be successful.

We are unclear whether House Bill 5060 would pass number one above, but expect that restriction would also protect the vast majority of bucks that are 2.5 years and older. We are confident in the Department of Natural Resource's ability to fulfill number two above, but we are unaware of survey data showing the proposal would pass number three above. Therefore, House Bill 5060 does not pass our three-part test and we do not support this bill.

Thank you for consideration of this matter and please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation