



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 25 March 2020
To: Governor Ralph Northam
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: House Bill 449

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to thank you for signing House Bill 449 which provides any person convicted of violating laws prohibiting hunting or fishing out of season, exceeding bag or creel limits, unlawfully killing bear, trespassing, hunting while under the influence of alcohol or any narcotic drug, shooting in or across a road, shooting from vehicles and various other wildlife related violations, may be prohibited from hunting, trapping or fishing in the Commonwealth for a period of one to five years. 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.

Wildlife is held in trust by the state for all of Virginia's citizens to enjoy. This public ownership of wildlife is an instrumental component of the successful North American Model for Wildlife Conservation. Ethical sportsmen created and have supported the North American Model for the past century. Unfortunately, unlawful activities with respect to wildlife contrast the Model, and illegally killing wildlife is nothing less than public theft.

House Bill 449 will help reduce the number of unlawful activities with respect to white-tailed deer and other species and therefore will benefit the state, its wildlife and citizenry. Thank you for your support of House Bill 449.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation