



# NATIONAL DEER ASSOCIATION

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## **NDA Branch Quarterly Policy Update – January - March, 2021**

### **Organizational Update**

A new Congress has been seated, and new legislative sessions are full-steam-ahead across the country. As a result, we're seeing a massive influx of new legislation – typical of a new calendar year and renewed opportunities for lawmakers to push their legislative agendas. Of course, perennial issues are sprouting everywhere: the economy, healthcare, industry, taxes, etc.

But, we are seeing a large number of conservation, hunting, and shooting-related bills being introduced at the state and federal levels. We're also seeing more individuals engaging in the legislative process, including issue and bill tracking. This isn't unusual, given the administration change in Washington, and a more engaged constituent base is always a good thing. It is important to understand, however, the intricacies involved in the legislative process.

For instance, the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress (2019-2020) enacted only 2% of the bills introduced to the House of Representatives or Senate. This means that a whopping 98% of bills don't become law – at least not in their introduced form. Sometimes, long battles ensue in committees, on the chamber floors, or even between legislative and executive branches, and the bills experience long and drawn-out deaths. Often times, though, bills are put to rest quickly and quietly.

Many, many bills are introduced in the same form every year by the same legislator, and every year, they receive the same fate. Other bills are just too far left or too far right to garner enough support to move forward. Other bills are so atrocious or against constituent desire that quick uproar squashes any hopes of passage almost immediately. For a concerned citizen, many of these bills tend to cause panic or outcry. You're paying attention – that's great! But many bills just aren't worth losing sleep over, and that's where the National Deer Association comes in. We have your back, and we're constantly tracking legislation across the country to ensure that time and resources are being spent where they're most efficient and effective.

So far this year, we've sent Action Alerts to members regarding 30 deer-hunting-related bills originating in 20 states, and we authored or signed-on to 29 policy initiative letters sent to state and federal agencies and lawmakers.

We're also engaged behind the scenes on numerous other legislative and rulemaking issues, ensuring that nothing slips through the cracks. Just because you're not hearing from us on a certain topic or issue doesn't mean that we're not on top of it. On the other hand, if there's something you think we need to be aware of, you know where to find us. Get in touch, and hopefully we can say: we're already on it! If not, you can bet we'll roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Below, you'll find a number of lists and items that could be useful to you and your members. First, we highlight what we've accomplished so far this year, followed by larger and long-term focus areas for the remainder of the year. Of course, any and all policy that affects wild deer is on our radar, and we're relying on branches, volunteers and members to bring state and local issues to our attention. The final lists provide specific details on legislation and other initiatives we've engaged on this quarter.

### **By the Numbers**

- 35 Action Alerts/Eblasts to date
  - About one every three days
  - 20 different states
- 30 pieces of state legislation
  - 20 different states
  - 2000 individual form submissions
- 29 policy letters
  - Signed on to 20, authored 9
- 9 policy articles/features
  - [CWD Roundup](#)
  - Press releases and other activity updates

### **Going Forward**

- Grassroots engagement
  - Working closely with ADGs and branch presidents
  - Continue to focus on all deer and build our membership and advocacy network for other species
- Federal CWD legislation
  - Working closely with the [Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership](#) and other conservation partners to draft language and gather lawmaker support
- Climate
  - [HuntFish3030](#)
  - Sportsmen/sportswomen climate statement
- Public lands/wild places
  - Great American Outdoors Act / Land and Water Conservation Fund implementation
  - Unique habitat, migration corridors, and active forest management

## Comments, Initiatives and Coalition Letters

Letter	Authored/Signed	Date Sent
<a href="#">2021 Oklahoma Public Lands Resolution Joint Letter of Support</a>	Signed	1.25.21
<a href="#">Amicus Brief in Support of Hoosier National Forest Habitat Projects</a>	Signed	1.11.21
<a href="#">Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners Jan. 23 Meeting Comments</a>	Authored	1.22.21
<a href="#">Stop Pebble Mine Petition</a>	Signed	1.28.21
<a href="#">Pennsylvania Online Raffle Legislation Letter</a>	Signed	2.8.21
<a href="#">Arkansas CWD Management and Response Plan Comments</a>	Authored	1.29.21
<a href="#">HuntFish3030 Community Statement</a>	Signed	2.16.21
<a href="#">Tom Vilsack for Secretary of Agriculture Support Letter</a>	Signed	2.1.21
<a href="#">Policy Council Mitigation Letter to Department of Interior</a>	Signed	3.10.21
<a href="#">Letter opposing Maryland HB490 and HB594 - Venison Sales</a>	Signed	2.5.21
<a href="#">Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation License Authority Bill Support Letter</a>	Signed	2.7.21
<a href="#">New Mexico SB 32 Opposition Coalition Letter</a>	Signed	2.16.21
<a href="#">AWCP support letter for migration corridors and habitat conservation</a>	Signed	2.23.21
<a href="#">New Mexico SB 312 Opposition Coalition Letter</a>	Signed	2.20.21
<a href="#">Maine HP 321 Baiting Bill Comments</a>	Authored	2.19.21
<a href="#">Deb Halland for Secretary of the Interior Support Letter</a>	Signed	2.22.21
<a href="#">Michigan SR 17 APR Study Comments</a>	Authored	2.24.21
<a href="#">NYSDEC Strategic Plan for Forest Management on WMAs Comments</a>	Authored	3.5.21
<a href="#">AWCP Letter to Office of Management and Budget on Funding for Federal Access</a>	Signed	3.19.21
<a href="#">AWCP Office of Management and Budget Migration Letter</a>	Signed	3.19.21
<a href="#">Support for Budget for Expanded Crossbow Use and Lower Hunting Age in NY</a>	Authored	3.19.21
<a href="#">Support Letter for Fiscal Year 22 Appropriations for the Everglades</a>	Signed	3.22.21
<a href="#">Oklahoma Licensing Authority Support Letter</a>	Authored	3.24.21
<a href="#">Delaware Right to Hunt, Fish and Trap Support Letter</a>	Authored	3.31.21
<a href="#">Letter to President Biden – Sportsmen/Sportswomen Climate Statement</a>	Signed	3.24.21
Support letter for helicopter funding from Texas Outdoor Partners	Signed	*
117th Congress Coalition Letter to Cosponsors of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act	Signed	*
Indiana SB 389 Facts, Alternatives and Policy Concerns	Signed	*
Mississippi HB 382 Coalition Opposition Letter	Co-Authored	*

## Legislation and Resolutions

State	Legislation	Support/Oppose	Action Alert/Letter
Delaware	SB 16	Support	<a href="#">Delaware Right to Hunt, Fish and Trap Support Letter</a>
Hawaii	H 1021 / S 1175	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Hawaii Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact Bills</a>
Iowa	SF 464	Oppose	<a href="#">Action Alert: Iowa SF 464 – Deer Population Management</a>
Kansas	HB 2331	Oppose	<a href="#">Action Alert: Kansas Deer Hunting Bills</a>
Kansas	HB 2336	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Kansas Deer Hunting Bills</a>
Maine	HP 321	Oppose	<a href="#">Action Alert: Maine House Paper 321 – Baiting of Deer</a>
Maryland	S 318	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Maryland S 318 – Right to Hunt and Fish</a>
Maryland	HB 490 / HB 594	Oppose	<a href="#">Letter opposing Maryland HB490 and HB594 - Venison Sales</a>
Michigan	SR 17	Oppose	<a href="#">Michigan SR 17 APR Study Comments</a>
Minnesota	HF 219	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Minnesota HF 219 – Captive Cervids and Cervid Transportation</a>
Minnesota	SF 271	Oppose	<a href="#">Action Alert: Minnesota SF 271 – Antler Point Restrictions</a>
Minnesota	SF 1305 / HF 1551	Oppose	<a href="#">Action Alert: Minnesota CWD Zone Authority Bills</a>
Minnesota	HF 1727	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Minnesota HF 1727 – Captive Deer Provisions &amp; Authority</a>
Mississippi	S 2035	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Mississippi SB 2035 – CWD Management Provisions</a>
Mississippi	HB 382	Oppose	<a href="#">Action Alert: Mississippi House Bill 382 – CWD Sampling of Captive Deer</a>
Missouri	SB 301 / HB 369	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Missouri Prescribed Fire Liability Legislation</a>
Montana	HB 108	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Montana House Bill 108 – Hunting Trespass Laws</a>
New Mexico	SB 32	Oppose	<a href="#">Action Alert: New Mexico Senate Bill 32 – Trapping Ban</a>
New Mexico	HB 57	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: New Mexico Prescribed Burning Act</a>
New York	A 239	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: New York A239 – Right to Hunt, Trap and Fish</a>
New York	S 1721	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: New York Crossbow Legislation and Hunting Age Initiative</a>
New York	A 6182	Oppose	<a href="#">Action Alert: New York A 6182 – Statutory Antler Point Restrictions</a>
North Carolina	S 66	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: North Carolina Deer Urine Bill</a>
Oklahoma	SR 8 / HR 1002	Support	<a href="#">NDA Joins Diverse Group in Supporting Oklahoma Public Lands Resolution</a>
Oklahoma	SB 774	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Oklahoma Licensing Authority Legislation</a>
Pennsylvania	SB 431	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Pennsylvania Antlerless Licensing Modernization</a>
Rhode Island	H 5329	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Rhode Island House Bill 5329 – Captive Cervids Importation</a>
Virginia	HB 1799	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Virginia House Bill 1799 – Sunday Hunting</a>
Wisconsin	S 166	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Wisconsin Senate Bill 166 – Deer Carcass Disposal Site Grants</a>
Federal	MAPLand Act	Support	<a href="#">Action Alert: Modernizing Access to Our Public Land (MAPLand) Act</a>

## Other Advocacy/Engagement Opportunities

<b>State</b>	<b>Opportunity</b>
Indiana	<a href="#"><u>Action Alert: Indiana NRC Accepting Comments on Muzzleloader Changes</u></a>
Indiana	<a href="#"><u>Action Alert: Indiana Deer Management Surveys Now Available</u></a>
Michigan	<a href="#"><u>Action Alert: Michigan Deer PLAN Grant Application Open</u></a>
Wisconsin	<a href="#"><u>Action Alert: Wisconsin DNR Welcoming Public Comment on Herd Size Objectives and DMU Boundaries</u></a>