



# NATIONAL DEER ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 162305 · Atlanta, Georgia 30321 · phone: 1-800-209-3337 · [DEERASSOCIATION.com](http://DEERASSOCIATION.com)

Al Bottari  
New York Bowhunters, Inc.  
5937 County Road #33  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

27 April, 2021

RE: Response to NDA New York State Involvement Letter

Mr. Bottari,

Thank you for your letter regarding the National Deer Association's (NDA) involvement in policy matters in New York State. I appreciate your passion for deer, deer management and deer policy in your state. As you know, NDA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of wild deer, wildlife habitat and hunting. We represent nearly 30,000 members nationwide and thousands of deer hunters in New York, including 13 local branches and the NDA New York State Advisory Council. Our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

Like you, we're celebrating the recent passage of the deer hunting pilot program that allows youths ages 12-13 to hunt deer with a firearm. Your efforts on this initiative, as well as prior initiatives to allow youths to hunt deer with archery equipment, are commendable. I understand that our organizations have opposing views of the use of crossbows through regular archery seasons, and I'm also aware that some of our New York members do not agree with our position on the issue. We've had numerous discussions with members on the topic, and we encourage open dialogue on all deer management issues. However, our position on crossbows is, and always has been, transparent.

As we mentioned in our communications on this issue, NDA supports the inclusion of crossbows as a legal method of take for deer and other species within appropriate seasons, wherever practical and possible, and we especially support the use of crossbows if their use positively impacts a deer management program and helps recruit and retain more hunters. New York, as evidenced by hunter participation last year, has a great opportunity to efficiently recruit, retain and reactivate hunters and conservationists for years to come. This position, as well as all our other Position Statements, are directly available on our website.

NDA represents all deer hunters – regardless of weapon choice, land ownership status or geographic location. Our four core focus areas are: 1) Education and Outreach, 2) Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation, 3) Policy and Advocacy and 4) Deer Diseases. As a result, we engage in a number of topics that fall within these areas, both at federal and state levels. To focus solely on federal matters would be a tremendous disservice to our membership nationwide, including the 13 New York Branches we represent. Our members look to, and indeed ask, NDA to engage in state-level policy matters every day, and we will continue to do so for the benefit of our members, wild deer, wildlife habitat and hunting across the country.

Again, I appreciate your passion for New York's deer and deer hunters, and I'm hopeful that our organizations can work in concert on future issues and initiatives that benefit wild deer, wildlife habitat and hunting in New York.

Sincerely,

Nick Pinizzotto  
*President and CEO*