



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 7 March 2008
To: Senate Game and Fisheries Committee
From: Kip Adams, Northern Director of Education and Outreach
Re: House Bill 1214

Dear Senate Game and Fisheries Committee Member,

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to oppose House Bill 1214 which would change the seat terms of the Board of Game Commissioners for the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC). The QDMA is an international nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ethical hunting, sound deer management and preservation of the deer-hunting heritage. The QDMA has 50,000 members nationwide, including over 3,300 Pennsylvania members and more than 2,500 of the nation's leading wildlife and forestry professionals. As such, QDMA is widely regarded as the most respected whitetail-ed deer organization in the United States.

Hunting is big business in Pennsylvania. Your sportsmen contribute more than \$2 billion annually to the state's economy. The PGC is charged with managing Pennsylvania's wildlife, and the Board of Game Commissioners oversees PGC's actions. The Board is an independent administrative commission, and this independence is important to guide wildlife management based on the best available science.

Commissioners' terms are staggered to ensure continuity and integrity. This design guards against influence from special interest groups, and provides latitude to the Game Commission's professionals to apply their skills and manage Pennsylvania's wildlife. Game Commission staff updates and advises the Board through the PGC Executive Director. With this guidance, as well as public feedback and personal investigation, the Board strives to safeguard the long-term future of Pennsylvania's wildlife species, our hunting heritage, and the PGC's stability. This process employs comprehensive natural resource conservation and good old-fashioned democracy to manage Pennsylvania's wildlife and their habitats for current and future generations. House Bill 1214 could upset this process by allowing special interests to supersede sound science. Scientific wildlife management is important for Pennsylvania's wildlife, their habitats, hunters and the state's economy. For these reasons the QDMA urges you to oppose House Bill 1214. Thank you for your time and your commitment to Pennsylvania's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Northern Director of Education & Outreach

*The QDMA is dedicated to ethical hunting, sound deer management
and the preservation of the deer-hunting heritage.*
