



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 11 June 2007
To: Game and Fisheries Committee
From: Kip Adams, Director of Education & Outreach - Northern Region, QDMA
Steve Trupe, President, Pennsylvania State Chapter of QDMA
Re: HB 251

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) and the Pennsylvania State Chapter of QDMA we are writing to state our opposition to HB 251 which would essentially allow for the taking of deer over bait throughout the Commonwealth. The QDMA is an international nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ethical hunting, sound deer management and preservation of the deer-hunting heritage. Among QDMA's nearly 45,000 members are more than 2,500 of the nation's leading wildlife and forestry professionals. As such, QDMA is widely regarded as the most respected whitetail organization in the United States.

Baiting is defined as the placement of food to aid in harvesting deer. Baiting can be an effective tool to increase harvest opportunities to meet deer management goals, especially in urban and suburban areas where access to huntable land is limited. However, several aspects of baiting are cause for concern. Potential negative consequences include transmission of diseases, alteration of deer movement patterns, impacts on surrounding habitat, impacts on hunter skill and success, social and ethical issues, and legal and enforcement issues.

The QDMA looks at every deer management proposal on a case-by-case basis. In general we oppose baiting where it does not currently exist. We supported the Pennsylvania Game Commission's urban baiting proposal in October 2006 due to the relationship between the deer herds and habitat in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties, and the fact that no known disease concern existed within those herds. However, we oppose the legalization of taking deer over bait outside of those urban counties.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Bureaus of Wildlife Management and Protection both oppose HB 251 and the majority of Pennsylvania sportsmen oppose taking deer over bait. The QDMA also opposes HB 251 and urges you to vote in opposition to it. Thank you for your commitment to Pennsylvania's natural resources and contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Education & Outreach / Wildlife Biologist

Steve Trupe
State Chapter President

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