



# QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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P. O. Box 160 | 170 Whitetail Way | Bogart, GA 30622  
PHONE: 800.209.3337 | FAX: 706.353.0223 | www.QDMA.com

20 July 2006

Honorable Bruce Smith  
Chairman, Game and Fisheries Committee  
East Wing Room 41A  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Smith,

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to state our support for HB 2861 which would ensure “no net loss” of public hunting lands. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ethical hunting, sound deer management and preservation of the deer-hunting heritage. The QDMA has 40,000 members nationwide with Pennsylvania ranking fifth in statewide membership. Our membership includes more than 1,000 of the nation’s leading deer biologists, researchers and managers. As such, QDMA is widely regarded as the most respected whitetail organization in the United States.

Hunting is big business in Pennsylvania. Over 90% of the state’s hunters pursue deer and Pennsylvania leads the nation with over 800,000 deer hunters. Hunters are the foremost supporters of wildlife management programs and Pennsylvania hunters purchase nearly \$1 billion in hunting-related items annually. Recreational hunting is an environmentally acceptable activity and the Pennsylvania Game Commission recognizes hunters as the primary wildlife management tool.

Approximately 15% of Pennsylvania is governmentally owned and open to deer hunting. These lands are critical as the amount of land open to hunting is steadily declining. Pennsylvania is losing 100,000 acres of open space and wildlife habitat to development each year. Many wildlife species inhabit developed areas but these acres are off limits to hunters and lack of suitable areas to hunt is a major factor in hunter recruitment and retention programs.

To ensure there are places for Pennsylvania hunters to do their part for wildlife management, we ask your support for HB 2861. Similar legislation has been enacted in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland and Mississippi and is under consideration in New Hampshire, Washington and West Virginia. Thank you for your consideration and please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Kip P. Adams  
Director of Education & Outreach