



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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4 October 2008

Honorable Edward G. Staback
Chairman, Game and Fisheries Committee
225 Irviss Office Building - PO Box 202115
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2115

Dear Chairman Staback,

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) and the Pennsylvania State Chapter I am writing to provide support for HB 779 which would repeal provision relating to the Sunday hunting prohibition. 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 over 50,000 members are more than 3,000 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.

The QDMA advocates the legalization of Sunday Hunting in Pennsylvania for the following reasons:

- **Sunday hunting will provide additional recreational opportunity for Pennsylvania hunters**
- **Sunday hunting will provide additional opportunity for hunters to help the Pennsylvania Game Commission manage deer and other wildlife populations**
- **Sunday hunting will increase hunter participation and recruitment rates**
- **Sunday hunting will help rural economies**

Hunters play an important role in Pennsylvania's societal and economic well being. Hunters provide a free ecological service to society by managing deer and other wildlife populations and provide more than \$1.5 billion annually to Pennsylvania's economy. Unfortunately the number of hunters in Pennsylvania is decreasing. Currently, Pennsylvania only recruits 62 hunters for every 100 it loses and this is nearly 10% below the national average. One suggested reason for this decline is the lack of available time for hunting.

The addition of Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania can provide additional time for hunting and help slow this negative trend. Many hunters are limited in their hunting activity to weekends due to long work weeks and conflicts with other social activities. Essentially, the addition of Sunday hunting would effectively double the number of available days for this segment of the hunting population. Similarly, it would provide ample opportunity for youth to hunt without conflicting with school or team sports (which typically occur on Saturdays), and therefore help hunter recruitment rates. For these reasons the QDMA supports HB 779. Thank you for your commitment to Pennsylvania's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams

Director of Education & Outreach – Northern Region

The future of deer hunting.