



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 19 June 2019
To: Environmental Conservation Committee
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Support for AB 7627

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for AB 7627 and respectfully ask that you support this vital piece of legislation, as well. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

Crossbows can be a polarizing topic in the archery world, but their use during deer season continues to expand. To gauge the extent of the expansion, we surveyed state and provincial wildlife agencies and asked whether crossbows could be used by all hunters during archery season. We asked the same question for our 2012 Whitetail Report, and at that time crossbows were legal in 21 of 37 states (57 percent) in the Midwest, Northeast and Southeast for at least a portion of the archery season. Today, that number has increased to 28 of 37 states (76 percent). All states in the Southeast allow crossbows during archery season. Apart from Rhode Island, crossbows aren't permitted in the New England region of the Northeast. All other Northeastern states allow them. Just over half of the Midwest states allow them, with the upper Midwest being most restrictive. Since 2012, crossbows can be used in archery seasons within Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, New York, Rhode Island, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The QDMA is dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. As such, we are more interested in managing deer and habitat appropriately and protecting our hunting heritage than debating use of specific weapons. If the use of crossbows positively impacts a deer management program and helps recruit and retain more hunters, then we fully support their use. With hunter numbers dwindling across the country it is vital to encourage new hunters to join and old hunters to stay within the time-honored tradition. Hunters contribute substantially to conservation within the state and are part of a \$14 billion outdoor economy. It is legislation like the one being considered right now within the state of New York that can be the difference for the conservation of our natural resources. Future generations of New Yorkers depend on your support of AB 7627. On behalf of QDMA, we would like to thank you for your zealous representation of the state of New York, your time, and your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Jacob D. Pries
Quality Deer Management Association
Policy Intern