



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 3 June 2019
To: Committee on SF 2314
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Supporting SF 2314

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for SF 2314, specifically, the appropriations provisions relating to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) research and prevention. We, respectfully, request that you pass these appropriations unamended into law. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. Founded in 1988, the QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals. Whitetails are the most popular big game animal in the U.S., and whitetail hunters are the foundation of the nearly \$67 billion hunting industry. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, approximately three of every four hunters pursue whitetails. This \$67 billion industry will be placed into jeopardy if CWD is not properly addressed with appropriate funding.

CWD is nothing short of an epidemic within the wildlife community and Minnesota stands on the edge of an extremely important time to act on this issue to keep Minnesota's successful hunting industry thriving. CWD is an always fatal disease found in all native North American cervids (members of the deer family) including elk, moose, mule and white-tailed deer, and it has now been identified in 26 U.S. states, three Canadian provinces, Korea, Finland and Norway. Contagions spread through urine, feces, saliva, blood, deer parts, and especially via live animals. Importantly, there is no vaccine, no cure and no practical live animal test to date. CWD has already been found in both captive and wild herds within your state. There is no greater time to act to appropriate the necessary funds for this issue. We must act to curb the problem before it grows any further.

We want to sincerely thank the committee for crucial action that has already been taken to address the issue of CWD in the state of Minnesota. It is vital to the continued existence of the historic white-tailed deer hunting culture in Minnesota to have legislators that zealously represent the views of the many sportsmen and women within the state. The appropriations you have authorized for MDNR dumpsters, University of Minnesota research, and double fence standards will have an enormous impact on the vitality of white-tailed deer hunting in Minnesota. Your action helps protect a \$16.7 billion outdoor recreation economy in the state of Minnesota and we respectfully ask that you continue this work to ensure that future generations can come to appreciate those same indescribable experiences that are inherent with an early morning spent in the woods.

Respectfully,

Jacob D. Pries
Policy Intern
Quality Deer Management Association.