



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 18 July 2019
To: House Agriculture Committee
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Support for H.R. 3458

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for H.R. 3458 Recreation Not Red Tape Act and respectfully request your support of 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.

The Recreation Not Red Tape Act is a crucial step towards giving public lands to the people that they belong to. This vital piece of legislation allows for public lands to reach their fullest potential. When access is given to these tracts of land, these lands bring about experiences that cannot be placed into words. The ability to venture into the vast wilderness to discover the treasures of this nation is invaluable. This act makes it possible for the citizens of the United States to test their boundaries and explore the possibilities that lie behind each access point.

With this increase in access and recreational opportunities, it gives the possibility of contributing to the preservation of a white-tailed deer hunting tradition that is so deeply rooted in the history of the United States. Whitetails are the most popular big game animal in the U.S., and whitetail hunters are the foundation of a nearly \$67 billion hunting industry. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, approximately three of every four hunters pursue whitetails and according to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, \$872 million was raised by hunting license fees just last year. Additionally, since 1939 state fish and wildlife agencies have received over \$62.1 billion in funds directly from sportsmen and women. Their vital contributions to conservation and the nation's economy provide a substantial benefit that will come from the passing of this bill.

Additionally, this act seeks to give back to those who give and have given so much to this country by increasing access opportunities for our active service members and veterans. With the passage of this act, all of the American public wins. This act is the crucial step we need to give the opportunity for all of the citizenry of the United States to enjoy our uniquely beautiful natural resources. On behalf of QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time, dedicated service and consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern (QDMA)