



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 13 September 2019  
To: The Honorable Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern  
Re: Support for S. 2302

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On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for S. 2302 America's Transportation Infrastructure Act and respectfully request that you support this vital piece of legislation as well. Specifically, we urge you to support the \$250 million in dedicated funding over the next five years contributing to the construction of roadway crossing structures that will help to reduce motor vehicle collisions with wildlife and provide crucial habitat connectivity for a vast number of species. We request your support of this funding measure by ensuring the integrity of this measure remains intact throughout the legislative process. 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.

Properly maintained highways are critical to our continued success as a nation. Our extensive highway system has allowed for intrastate and interstate commerce to thrive, the American citizenry to efficiently travel to their destination, and it remains one of the most vital drivers of our nation's successes. With this extensive highway system, comes an immense responsibility to ensure the safe travel of Americans and habitat connectivity for the wildlife that belongs to those Americans for their enjoyment. The \$250 million in funding satisfies this responsibility by addressing vehicle collisions with wildlife and habitat connectivity. This funding is critical for the safety of the American people and the continued existence of white-tailed deer throughout the country.

Vehicle collisions with wildlife can be very costly for the average American. According to State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, the average insurance claim for a wildlife related collision was \$4,341 and US drivers had a 1 in 167 chance of being involved in a wildlife collision in 2018. These numbers can be drastically decreased with the addition of wildlife crossings and increasing habitat connectivity among essential corridors. With leadership on this from the Senate, we will be able to move forward with a newly constructed transportation bill that benefits multiple facets of the American way of life. The United States of America depends on your continued leadership on this issue to ensure the thriving coexistence of America's publicly owned wildlife and the roads that connect this great country to the wild places it offers. On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association, we would like to thank you for your dedicated service to this country, your time, and your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries  
Policy Intern  
Quality Deer Management Association