



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 9 April 2013
To: House Emerging Issues in Agriculture Committee
From: Kip Adams, Director of Education and Outreach
Re: House Bill 962

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to oppose House Bill 962 which would add deer to the definition of "livestock". 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 nearly 50,000 members nationwide, and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

Deer farming is the ranching of native or exotic deer for commercial production of antlers, venison, breeding stock, semen, huntable animals or other salable parts. Because of the potential negative effects of deer farming, several states and some Canadian provinces have banned deer farming. The most common concerns are disease transmission from farmed deer to native wildlife and domestic livestock, competition of escaped farmed deer with native species for space and forage, and hybridization between escaped farmed deer and native deer. Also of concern are conservation issues regarding the privatization of wildlife and fair chase issues related to the commercial hunting of farmed deer.

Disease transmission to native wildlife is a significant threat, especially considering the number of documented escapes from captive cervid (deer, elk, and exotics) facilities in other states. For example, from 2006 to 2009, 595 escapes were reported in Wisconsin, including 266 whitetails, 78 elk, and 251 exotics. Given the presence of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in both wild and captive herds in Wisconsin, wildlife managers are understandably concerned. In 2004, Michigan, another CWD-positive state, documented 456 previously unreported escapes. Also the example in your state where two captive deer tested positive for CWD in 2010, and two wild deer tested positive within two miles of that facility in 2012. Numerous disease experts agree the distribution map of CWD suggests that CWD likely arrived in several new states through transportation of live deer or deer parts (either legally or illegally) and not spontaneously or through natural deer movements.

For the reasons stated above, the QDMA urges you to oppose House Bill 962. Thank you for your time and your commitment to Missouri's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams

Kip Adams
Director of Education and Outreach