



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 12 April 2013
To: Representatives Jones and Richardson
From: Kip Adams, Director of Education and Outreach
Re: House Joint Resolution 36

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to oppose House Joint Resolution 36 which would create a constitutional amendment requiring the Department of Conservation to follow statutory rulemaking requirements except for matters involving hunting season. 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.

Missouri is widely acknowledged as having one of the most successful wildlife management programs in the United States, and this is due in large part to the 1937 constitutional amendment creating the Missouri Conservation Commission – the precursor to the Department of Conservation (MDC). According to the October 2011 *Missouri Conservationist*, “On July 1, 1937, the constitutional amendment creating the Missouri Conservation Commission took effect, creating an apolitical, science-based conservation agency with exclusive authority over forests, fish and wildlife. Over the next 75 years, the “Missouri plan” allowed the Show-Me State to build what is acknowledged as one of the nation’s top conservation programs. Today that Commission is more commonly referred to as the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC).”

Providing an apolitical, science-based conservation agency with exclusive authority over the state’s forests, fish and wildlife is paramount to Missouri’s success. In fact, a 2012 QDMA national survey showed “Political Influences” was ranked as the third highest threat impacting state wildlife agencies’ ability to manage deer. The only issues impacting deer management more negatively were “Hunter/land Access” and “Landscape/habitat Change” (see page 12 <http://www.qdma.com/uploads/pdf/WR2013.pdf>).

For the reasons stated above, the QDMA urges you to oppose House Joint Resolution 36. Thank you for your time and your commitment to Missouri’s natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams

Kip Adams
Director of Education and Outreach