



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 160 • 170 Whitetail Way • Bogart, GA 30622

PHONE: 800.209.3337 • FAX: 706.353.0223 • www.QDMA.com

Date: 2 February 2018

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation

Re: Senate Bill 81

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to state our support for Senate Bill 81 which would provide that a landowner whose property is used for an educational activity shall owe no duty of care to a member of the public arising out of the educational use of the land. 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.

Virginia landowners routinely provide access to their properties for hunting, wildlife viewing, and other recreational pursuits. Unfortunately, not all users respect the privilege to use those lands, and Senate Bill 81 can help reduce the liability of landowners who graciously open their lands to others to recreate upon. Lack of places to recreate is often cited as a reason for the declining number of hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts. This bill could help reverse that trend by providing additional protection to landowners, and an increasing number of outdoorsmen and women is good for Virginia's societal and economic wellbeing.

For the above reasons we urge you to support Senate Bill 81. Thank you for consideration of this important matter and for your commitment to Virginia's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation