



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 21 March 2018
To: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: Senate Bill 182

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to state our support for Senate Bill 182 which would allow an individual a tax credit for donating venison to a food pantry. 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.

Hunters have been sharing their venison with family, friends, and neighbors for years. Fortunately, beginning in the 1990s, organized programs started to become available to handle hunter donated venison and provide it to needy individuals. Funding for venison donation programs comes from a variety of sources including individuals, churches, civic groups, hunt clubs, outdoor organizations, businesses, foundations, corporations, and local fundraising events. Regardless of source, most venison donation programs are limited only by the amount of meat provided.

Burgeoning whitetail populations in many regions of the Nation have resulted in surplus venison. Therefore, many hunters acquire enough venison to fill their freezers while there are still opportunities to harvest more deer. The venison donation programs provide a valuable service to handle the surplus venison and help those in need. This Bill can help increase the amount of venison donated. As such, I urge you to help Maryland's citizenry by supporting Senate Bill 182. Thank you for consideration of this matter and please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation