



April 7, 2008

Mr. Keith Charters, Chair
Natural Resources Commission
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Mr. John Madigan, Chair
NRC Wildlife Committee

Dear Chairmen Charters and Madigan:

On behalf of the 4,300 members of the Michigan State Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we are writing to provide input on the Department of Natural Resources's (DNR) Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 7 of 2008 for a new early antlerless deer season and other changes in antlerless hunting. The QDMA is an international nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ethical hunting, sound deer management and preservation of the deer-hunting heritage. The QDMA has over 50,000 members nationwide with Michigan ranking fourth in statewide membership. Our membership includes more than 2,500 of the nation's leading wildlife and forestry professionals. As such, QDMA is widely regarded as the most respected whitetail organization in the United States.

We support the changes in the proposed Wildlife Conservation Order. We believe it is particularly important that the DNR increase the harvest of antlerless deer in southern lower Michigan, and an additional season focused on antlerless deer should help achieve that objective. We also support allowing hunters to purchase more than three antlerless tags per season. We do request that you consider holding the new antlerless season the third week of September rather than in October as planned for in the Wildlife Conservation Order. A September season should result in stronger law enforcement and it would not conflict with our existing archery season.

We stand ready to help provide information and education regarding any new proposal or program to improve our deer herd and hunting opportunities. Thank you for consideration of this matter and for your commitment to Michigan's natural resources.

Respectfully,

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cc: NRC Commissioners
R. Humphries, DNR Director
D. Reeves, Acting Wildlife Director
QDMA State Chapter Board of Directors
QDMA Branch Presidents