



**QDMA**

## Michigan State Council - Quality Deer Management Association

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September 16, 2019

Honorable Committee Chair Sheppard  
Honorable Representative Cole  
Honorable Representative Lilly  
Honorable Representative Grieg  
Honorable Representative Rabhi

On behalf of the Michigan State Council of the Michigan Quality Deer Management Association, our 22 Michigan branches and over 5,000 Michigan members I am writing you to oppose House Bill 4687 which would legalize feeding and baiting of deer statewide.

The reasons for this opposition are twofold. First enacting this legislation would be a dangerous step undermining the Natural Resources Commission as spelled out in Proposal G. Those in favor of baiting and this bill are taking a serious risk of winning the battle, but losing the war.

The second reason for our opposition is that it runs counter to the preponderance of science regarding disease transmission. In Michigan we are facing 2 primary deer disease threats: bovine tuberculosis bTB (bacterial) and Chronic Wasting Disease CWD (Prion disease).

In the case bTB and most other communicable bacterial diseases, it is both established science and common sense that animals sharing a bait pile placed on the ground will be exposed to infective saliva, feces and urine of other animals using that same bait pile. At this time Michigan's cattle industry is struggling to contain bTB and is under threat of penalties from the USDA if the disease is not contained more effectively. Legallizing baiting in our bTB areas and the resulting increase in bTB in deer and cattle could result in many of our cattle producers going out of business and potentially hundreds of millions in economic impact.

In the case of CWD, which is caused by a misfolded protein called a Prion, there is more yet that needs to be learned about transmission, but there is solid science pointing to bait piles as a significant transmission risk. Some examples are as follows:

- Scientists have found that the infective Prions can be found in high concentrations in saliva and feces and to a lesser degree in urine. All three of these will be in the "mix" at any bait pile
- One of the acknowledged symptoms of CWD is excessive salivation.
- When scientist exposed uninfected deer to feed buckets that were used by CWD positive deer 100% of the deer became infected.
- In Wisconsin, when scientists tested the soil around mineral sites they found that 9 of the 11 tested sites contained CWD Prions

We are asking that you follow the abide by Proposal G, and follow the best current science. For the sake of our deer herd, and deer hunters do not vote House Bill 4687 out of committee.

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*The QDMA is dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage.*

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Michigan State Council - Quality Deer Management  
Association

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Regards,

Erik Schnelle

*President*

**Michigan QDMA State Advisory Council**

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