



Date: April 9th, 2025

Re: Hunter Opposition to HB509

To: The Honorable Members of the Alabama Legislature

On behalf of the hunters, professional wildlife scientists, and outdoor enthusiasts represented by our organizations, we are writing to express our opposition to recently introduced legislation. We urge you to **vote NO** on **House Bill 509 (HB509)**, which would prohibit state agencies from killing, testing, and prohibiting the transfer of captive deer due to disease expect under certain circumstances and would establish that deer possessed by a licensee are the personal property of that licensee.

We support the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) in their oversight and management of the captive deer-breeding industry in Alabama and believe their authority should be maintained. Our goal is to protect [Alabama's \\$1.2 billion hunting industry](#) as it supports thousands of livelihoods, rural economies, and bolsters conservation funding.

This legislation would undermine wildlife management as well as disease mitigation in the state of Alabama. The threat of chronic wasting disease (CWD) poses a serious risk to Alabama's wild deer, rural economies, and hunting heritage. In order to effectively mitigate the spread of CWD, and other wildlife diseases, the ADCNR must maintain authority over both captive and wild deer in the state. Therefore, captive deer operations, including deer breeders, should remain under the ADCNR.

Additionally, this bill raises concerns regarding the privatization of wildlife, which directly goes against the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Wildlife is a public trust resource. Captive, or farm raised, deer should not be considered personal property of a licensee. Regardless of their location pertaining to a fence, all deer are a part of a public resource and belong under the authority of the state wildlife agency. This bill compromises the public trust, as well as professional wildlife management in the state. We support the existing structure and the current authority of the ADCNR over the monitoring, testing, and management of captive deer operations.

We respectfully ask that you **vote NO** on **HB509** and welcome any questions about this legislation you may have.

Sincerely,

National Deer Association (NDA)

Boone and Crockett

The Wildlife Society

Southeast Section of The Wildlife Society

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

National Wildlife Federation