

Chairman Staback, Chairman Miller and Members of the House Game and Fisheries Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to provide remarks on the report of "The Deer Management Program of the Pennsylvania Game Commission." My comments will be very brief.

First let me say that it was a great pleasure to work with the team from the Wildlife Management Institute. We appreciated the professional dialogue and exchange of ideas. Although we did not always agree during the discussions, it did provide food for thought and offered constructive comments to improve the program.

Needless to say, we are pleased with the major conclusions of the report. Specifically, the findings that the scientific foundation of the deer management program is sound; that Wildlife Management Units represent an appropriate compromise in their size to achieve the necessary data; and that our population model represents a scientifically valid method of calculating population trends.

We take note of the suggestions on the use of Citizen Advisory Committees and the desire to increase the sample size in the forest habitat area. We believe both of these suggestions have merit. They may require additional resources to accomplish them and we will do the cost benefit analysis to see how best to implement the recommendations.

Again, we thank the committee for sponsoring this report. We believe it will help the citizens of the Commonwealth have a greater understanding and confidence in the science we use to manage deer in Pennsylvania. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.