



April 24th, 2026

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Honorable Peter Harckham
Senator
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harckham@nysenate.gov

Honorable Pamela Hunter
Member of Assembly
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Albany NY 12248
HunterP@nyassembly.gov

cc: Assembly EnCon committee chair: GlickD@nyassembly.gov

Re: Deer Management Permits for Northern Zone

Dear Senator Harckham and Assembly member Hunter,

The New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) fully supports the bills authorizing the issuance of Deer Management Permits (DMPs) in the Northern Zone of New York (A.10633/S. 9462). Enactment of these bills will correct a long-standing problem in deer management in New York.

Forests and woodlands cover 18.5 million acres of New York's land and 75% of those lands are privately owned in 700,000 separate ownerships with 200,000 owners holding more than 10 acres of forest or woodland. The northern zone of New York, covering the Adirondacks, is a region where sustained management of woodlands for timber production is an important part of the economy. Obtaining sufficient regeneration of species most desirable for producing future timber crops such as oak, maple, cherry, white pine and others is very difficult with the large deer herds. Deer also limit regeneration needed to produce young successional forests to support a variety of wildlife. This is especially true in the Adirondacks where achieving a good vigorous stand of next generation trees is fraught with many problems.

Treating the northern zone of New York as the rest of the State will enable the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to issue antlerless deer permits and apply other aspects of deer management. We appreciate that the statutory change in the law may seem like a minor adjustment but for both large and small landowners in the region it will be a welcome change. The DEC Division of Fish and Wildlife will oversee the issuance of DMPs and as noted in the bills, the Department is authorized and directed to promulgate any rules or regulations necessary to more particularly describe areas of land set forth in this section.



The New York Forest Owners Association promotes sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State. Through local chapter and statewide activities such as woods walks and tours, the bi-monthly New York Forest Owner magazine, and affiliation with other organizations with similar objectives, we help woodland owners to achieve their management objectives for their properties. Enlarging the area of the State where DMPs are used as a deer management tool will improve the ability of hunters to obtain permits, and make the DEC program of deer management more efficient and successful.

Edward Neuhauser
President NYFOA

Hugh Canham, Chair
Legislative Affairs NYFOA