

## ***Colorado Mule Deer Association***

P.O. Box 4205  
Grand Junction, CO 81502

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Dear Senator Isgar,

Thank you for your interest in wildlife issues as Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. We are writing concerning your bill SB235 reauthorizing the habitat stamp. CMDA is dedicated to the welfare of the Colorado mule deer. Our mission statement includes actively seeking to increase mule deer population in Colorado through habitat improvements and acquisition, the translocation of animals to historic ranges and through restoring the biological balance among predators and mule deer. In keeping with this purpose we request that SB235 be amended to earmark 50% of the funding for big game habitat and migration corridors.

Some points to consider are:

\*SB235 is a \$10 earmarked license fee increase on hunters and fishermen - residents and non-residents alike.

\* Colorado is known to host America's greatest deer and elk herds. It will take more effort, diligence, and funding to manage and maintain these animals, their migration routes, winter ranges, and particularly as Colorado's human population rapidly approaches six million.

\* It is imperative that deer and elk have the ability to migrate from summer to winter ranges to maintain their herd numbers. Herd numbers equal hunter opportunity which equals revenue to the CDOW, and to the local and state economy.

Please reinstate the mandate to spend at least 50% of the funds from the Habitat Stamp to big game migration corridors and winter range.

Sincerely,



Secretary  
Dick Steele DVM