

*** Archery Trade Association * Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies * Backcountry Hunters & Anglers * Boone and Crockett Club * Camp Fire Club of America * Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation * Delta Waterfowl * Houston Safari Club * Izaak Walton League of America * Masters of Foxhounds Association * Mule Deer Foundation * National Association of Forest Service Retirees * National Deer Association * National Shooting Sports Foundation * National Wildlife Federation * National Wild Turkey Federation * Orion: The Hunter's Institute * Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation * Safari Club International * Texas Wildlife Association * Whittails Unlimited * Wildlife Forever * Wildlife Management Institute ***

April 25, 2023

Senator Martin Heinrich, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Senator John Hoeven, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Rep. Andy Harris, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Sanford Bishop Jr., Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Heinrich, Ranking Member Hoeven, Chair Harris and Ranking Member Bishop, Jr.,

We write in support of \$30 million in federal funding for the research and management of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the FY24 appropriations process. As you know, CWD is a crisis that threatens the future of hunting in North America and the health of deer, elk, and moose populations. CWD is highly contagious and always fatal.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) continues to be of great concern to wildlife managers and is significantly reducing cervid populations and wildlife conservation through reduced hunting opportunities at a cost of approximately \$2 million/year per state. Thus far, CWD has been detected in 30 states and over 391 counties. However, even in states where CWD has not yet been found the threat of it is concerning due to the economic and cultural value associated with a state's cervid population, and the likelihood that the disease may be present yet undetected. Science-based research and enhanced collaboration between federal and state agencies is critical to address early detection, proper disposal, and preventing the spread of the disease.

Over numerous appropriations cycles, funding has been provided through USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to combat Chronic Wasting Disease. However, the growing need for resources is evident as CWD continues its spread across America. Passage of the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act in the 117th Congress authorized

additional annual funding to be divided equally between CWD research and state and tribal CWD management efforts. Though this bill authorized up to \$70 million for research and management programming annually, we are seeking \$30 million in FY24 based on our understanding of demonstrated need in FY23.

We very much appreciate your leadership in authorizing this important program and thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

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Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
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