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,

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
Whitetails Unlimited
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute