



The Wildlife Society
THE ALABAMA CHAPTER

March 9, 2018

Dear Sir or Madame,

The Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ACTWS) opposes legislation to legalize baiting or supplemental feeding of white-tailed deer in Alabama. Attached you will find our position statement, which was developed in 2012 and recently updated. Baiting and feeding concentrate deer and other wildlife promoting the spread of deadly wildlife diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CWD was first discovered in mule deer 40 years ago, rapidly spread across the country, and has now been found in 32 states. Recently, CWD was discovered in the nearby states of Arkansas and Mississippi. Once established in wild populations CWD is untreatable and likely impossible to eliminate. This fatal disease is a potential threat to Alabama's deer population and the \$1.6 billion dollar deer-hunting industry in our state.

The Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a professional organization that serves and represents wildlife professionals in all areas of wildlife conservation and resource management. It is dedicated to the scientific conservation of wildlife resources and to furthering the education of those involved with, or interested in, wildlife conservation. ACTWS promotes rigorous professional ethics for wildlife scientists and managers, facilitates the exchange of technical information, and works to influence legislation impacting wildlife resources. For more information on ACTWS and our parent organization, visit our website <https://wildlife.org/alabama>. For more information on CWD, visit <https://www.cwd-info.org>.

Sincerely,

James (Barry) Grand, Ph.D.
President,
Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society
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