

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Jamie L. Whitten Building
Washington DC

April 12, 2018

Dear Secretary Perdue,

The undersigned sportsmen's conservation organizations and professional societies—representing millions of Americans who hunt wild deer, elk, and moose across our great country—strongly urge you to extend the public comment period for input on proposed revisions to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) program standard. We strongly believe the public should have more than the current 30 days (ending on April 30, 2018) to weigh in, and we respectfully request at least a 60-day period or, more ideally, a 90-day period, for public comment on the CWD program standard.

Chronic Wasting Disease represents the single biggest threat to the future of elk and deer hunting, by far the most popular and economically important form of hunting in the United States year after year. Not only does CWD threaten the health of elk and deer populations, and consequently hunting opportunities, it also jeopardizes the sustainable funding generated by hunters for conservation of our public wildlife resources through license sales and excise taxes. As CWD continues to spread in deer herds across the country, it is clear that more must be done by the federal government to control Chronic Wasting Disease.

APHIS, as the lead federal agency responsible for addressing the CWD crisis, must allow time for elk and deer hunters and other wildlife conservationists, as well as scientists to review the proposed revisions and respond accordingly. We hope the USDA will provide this time by extending the relevant comment period beyond the current 30 day timeframe. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this feedback and look forward to working with you and other leaders across the executive branch to address this worrisome disease.

With regards,

Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Bear Trust International
Campfire Club of America
Catch-A-Dream Foundation
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports
Delta Waterfowl
Houston Safari Club
Izaak Walton League of America
Mule Deer Foundation

National Deer Alliance
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever
Professional Outfitters and Guides of America
Quality Deer Management Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society
Sportsmen's Alliance
Texas Wildlife Association
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Whitetails Unlimited
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute
The Wildlife Society
Wild Sheep Foundation