

February 27, 2025

The Honorable Dudley Hoskins  
Under Secretary for Marketing & Regulatory Programs  
United States Department of Agriculture

Dear Under Secretary Hoskins,

We write to express our continued support for USDA's ongoing work to research and manage Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CWD is a fatal neurodegenerative disease impacting multiple cervid species including deer, elk, and moose. CWD negatively impacts cervid populations, reduces hunting opportunities, compromises wildlife management funding models, and poses a potential human health risk in at least 36 U.S. states.

Research at the National Wildlife Research Center, grants to States and Tribes for CWD management and response, indemnification of affected captive herds, and the CWD Herd Certification Program are all important components of a comprehensive response to this growing challenge.

We appreciate USDA's recent efforts to support the conservation community. As you assume management of the Department's CWD efforts, we respectfully request:

- Timely distribution of Congressionally appropriated funding for CWD State and Tribal CWD research and management through a competitive grant process.
- Full implementation of Congressionally appropriated funding for USDA's CWD research activities, with a focus on research that has a direct application to wild cervids.
- Review and implementation of the CWD Herd Certification Program, as directed by the CWD Research and Management Act of 2022.

Thank you for your continued partnership with the conservation community and we welcome the opportunity to discuss these requests in detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Archery Trade Association  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Boone and Crockett Club  
First Lite  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Houston Safari Club  
MeatEater  
Mule Deer Foundation

National Association of Forest Service Retirees  
National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative Foundation  
National Deer Association  
National Trappers Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
New York State Conservation Council  
North American Falconers Association  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Pope and Young Club  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Safari Club International  
Savage Arms  
Sportsmen's Alliance  
The Wildlife Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Vortex Optics  
Whitetails Unlimited  
Wildlife Forever  
Wildlife Management Institute