

Urgent Action Required to Address Chronic Wasting Disease in Michigan's White-Tail Deer Herd

Whereas: In Michigan, chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been found in both captive (farmed) cervid and free-ranging deer populations with increased risk to both elk and moose, and

Whereas: CWD was first found in farmed white-tailed deer in June 2008 and in wild white-tailed deer in May 2015, and

Whereas: There have been 57 confirmed or suspected cases since May 2015 (as of February 8, 2018) and the trend indicates the count is expected to increase, and

Whereas: CWD is a fatal neurological disease that affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and moose, and

Whereas: CWD is caused by the transmission of infectious, self-multiplying proteins (prions) contained in saliva and other body fluids and excretions of infected animals, and

Whereas: Susceptible animals can acquire CWD by direct exposure to these fluids, and from environments contaminated with these fluids, and from the carcass of a diseased animal, and

Whereas: White-tailed deer may be infected for many years without showing internal or external symptoms, and

Whereas: There is no cure for a deer once it is infected with CWD, and

Whereas: Shed prions attach to surface soils and remain viable for an indeterminate number of years, unaffected by heat, cold or radiation, from whence they can contaminate future generations of deer through the plants deer eat, and

Whereas: The US Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization recommend infected animals NOT be consumed by humans or domestic animals, and

Whereas: CWD is a threat to the white-tailed deer herd, a threat to a nearly \$2 billion deer hunting economy, and funding for the MDNR through license and Pittman Robertson funds, and

Whereas: Michigan must immediately respond to the urgent CWD threat with an aggressive science-based strategy for a healthy white-tailed deer herd, and

Whereas: Additional research is needed on prevention, transmission pathways, surveillance and sampling methods and efficacy, diagnostic tools and sanitation, and

Whereas: Michigan must take into account biosecurity and risk in farmed and wild populations; must use and develop effective management tools including regulations, hunting practices, special hunts and other tools, and

Whereas: Transparency, information and stakeholder engagement is vital to long term success, be it therefore

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Resource Stewards do solemnly petition the Governor, the Legislature, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to develop stronger direction to regulate and reduce captive (farmed) cervid facilities to reduce CWD movement and risk, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Resource Stewards do solemnly petition the Governor, the Legislature, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to immediately reinstate a statewide ban on feeding and baiting of deer, and be it finally

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Resource Stewards do solemnly petition the Governor, Legislature, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources to continue to support increased efforts to combat CWD in Michigan.

APPROVED, Unanimously, by the membership on the 6th day of March, 2018.

Signed_____