



# Resolution

## No. 2023-55

### Conduct Additional Research on Chronic Wasting Disease to Improve Testing, Treatment, and Management Options

**WHEREAS**, Chronic Wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease of cervids which threatens to cause significant economic, cultural and ecological damage to Wisconsin's deer and elk populations; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, a better understanding of CWD is needed to develop better management tools; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, current funding and research levels are not commensurate to the threat posed by CWD; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, since the discovery of CWD in Wisconsin in 2001 it is now found in wild deer in 41 counties and has been found in over 25 captive cervid farms; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, in the most highly infected areas of Dane and Iowa counties the prevalence rate in adult males is about 50% and in adult females is about 35%; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control, and the World Health Organization all recommend that cervid meat only be eaten after the animal harvested has tested negative for CWD; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, in 2022 nearly 800,000 gun and archery deer hunting licenses were sold in Wisconsin; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, according to a study, hunters in Wisconsin spent \$2.5 billion in 2011. Eighty-eight percent of the hunters in Wisconsin participated in deer hunting, making it the most popular form of hunting in the state;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors, assembled this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023 recommends that the Wisconsin Counties Association urge the State Legislature to fund and direct state agencies to conduct the following research in order to better manage CWD:

- Develop a reliable, rapid, and easy to administer CWD test that can be conducted on live cervids.
- Develop a reliable, rapid, and easy to administer CWD test that can be implemented in the field on harvested cervids that will provide immediate test results.
- Develop a cervid vaccine for CWD.
- Develop a cure for CWD infected cervids.
- Breed inheritable resistance to CWD in captive cervids such that the cervids do not carry or shed CWD prions.
- Determine CWD prion longevity and virulence in contaminated soil, feed, and crops under a wide range of environmental conditions.
- Develop a better understanding of CWD prion movement in the environment once outside of cervids
- Expand monitoring of wild cervids in CWD endemic zones to better understand the effect of CWD on cervid populations.
- Conduct epidemiological assessment of CWD prions on human health including whether humans are already carriers of CWD prions, the likelihood of CWD prions infecting humans and causing disease, and the impact of eating CWD positive cervids.

