

Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act

Stakeholder Quotations

North Dakota Wildlife Federation

“The bipartisan Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act will help ensure state and Tribal agencies on the front lines of controlling this disease have the resources they need to better understand and stop its spread,” said John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. “Conserving our deer herds and protecting our hunting heritage will require investing in solutions that match the scale of the problem and this bill does exactly that.”

New Mexico Wildlife Federation

“It was 20 years ago this month that the first case of Chronic Wasting Disease was detected in New Mexico and we’ve been grappling with this threat ever since,” said Jesse W. Deubel, Executive Director of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation. “Action to protect New Mexico’s iconic game species like deer and elk is vital to preserve and protect our outdoor economy. We applaud Senator Heinrich for leading the charge to make real and tangible changes to save some of our states most iconic species.”

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

“This legislation could be the turning point in the fight against CWD,” said Tony Wasley, President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Director of the Nevada Department of Wildlife. “State agencies are devoting all the resources they can to address CWD, and Congress needs to make significant investments in on-the-ground management and control efforts. We thank Senators Heinrich and Hoeven for their leadership on this critical issue, and ask the Senate to pass this bill without delay.”

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

“For years, hunters have been calling for a comprehensive legislative solution to help combat the rapid spread of chronic wasting disease, which threatens the very future of wild deer and deer hunting in America—this bill is first-of-its-kind in addressing multiple facets of this complex problem,” says Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. “We were thrilled to see it move so quickly through the House this fall and we’re proud to see the bipartisan support this legislation already has in the Senate. Sportsmen and sportswomen look forward to working with lawmakers to see it through to the finish line, so we can support states in their ongoing response to CWD, while conducting research that will lead to better long-term solutions.”

North American Deer Farmers Association

On behalf of the North American Deer Farmers Association (NADeFA), we would like to thank Senators Hoeven and Heinrich for introducing vitally important legislation to fight Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). This bill echoes the legislation introduced in the House of Representatives and is a true investment in developing the scientific tools necessary to combat CWD in farmed and wild deer populations. This disease has not received the federal attention it deserves, until now. I would like to thank the hunting and conservation organizations who sat down with us to find common ground. In the past, research dollars have been very limited, but with our new federal partners, it will allow universities, Tribes, and state agencies to access federal funds necessary to carry out critical research. We owe it to our current and future generations of hunters, family farms, and children, to collectively pass this important legislation,” said Shawn Schafer, NADeFA Executive Director.

Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation

“The Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (CSF) commends the Senate introduction of the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Research and Management Act, a strategic bipartisan bill to address one of the most pressing management challenges facing wildlife professionals and America’s 55 million sportsmen and women,” said CSF President and CEO Jeff Crane. “This bill marks the first time that all interested CWD stakeholders have collectively supported a singular effort to combat this disease.”

National Wildlife Federation

“Chronic wasting disease is a serious threat to populations of whitetail deer, elk, mule deer, moose, and other ungulates that is already taking a deadly toll across the country. Combatting this fatal disease is critical in order to protect wildlife, as well as our outdoor economy,” said Collin O’Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. “We are grateful to Senators Heinrich, Hoeven and their colleagues for working across the aisle to support robust research and response efforts to ensure that State and Tribal wildlife managers can take conservation actions based on the best available science.”

National Deer Association

“The National Deer Association (NDA) celebrated the introduction and passage of the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act in the House last fall, and we couldn’t be happier to see the bill’s introduction in the Senate by a group of proven bipartisan conservation leaders,” said Nick Pinizzotto, National Deer Association President and CEO. “The need for funding for states, tribes and researchers couldn’t be any more apparent, as we’ve seen three new states detect CWD-positive animals in the first months of 2022. We look forward to working with these Senators to get the bill passed and implemented.”

Boone and Crockett Club

“Chronic wasting disease is a major and growing threat to many of our country’s native big game species, already presenting significant challenges to maintaining the health of these ecologically important wildlife species,” said James F. Arnold, president of the Boone and Crockett Club. “We appreciate the continued leadership of Senators Heinrich and Hoeven for their efforts to find solutions to this growing issue. The legislation that they introduced today will provide critical new funding to state wildlife agencies that are on the front lines battling CWD.”

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

“The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation supports the Bipartisan Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act as an important acceleration in our national fight against this deer and elk disease. Supporting state and tribal efforts to detect and manage the disease locally, as well as develop new practical solutions through targeted research is an important advancement.”
-Blake Henning, Chief Conservation Officer Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

“Chronic wasting disease poses an increasing threat to deer, elk and other wild cervids as it continues to spread with no known cure. CWD also represents a threat to the millions of Americans who rely on healthy cervid populations to feed their families and continue their outdoor traditions. Unfortunately, it’s not a matter of if your state or region will be impacted by CWD, but when. We must urgently do all we can to reduce the impacts of CWD and that’s why Backcountry Hunters & Anglers applauds Senators Martin Heinrich and John Hoeven for introducing bipartisan legislation that addresses this critical issue by providing federal resources for the cooperative research and management of CWD between state and tribal agencies.”~ Land Tawney, President and CEO - Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Mule Deer Foundation

"The Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) is proud to support this important legislation proposed by Senators Heinrich and Hoeven to enhance and sustain important management efforts and research to combat chronic wasting disease (CWD), which is a contagious, neurological disease affecting deer, elk and moose – that is always fatal. CWD is a serious threat to the future of deer conservation, this legislation addresses those issues that could drastically change the way mule deer and black-tailed deer are managed,” said Joel Pedersen, President and CEO of the Mule Deer Foundation.