



# Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

## 73rd Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments

July 15 – 18, 2018

### Resolution in Support of Federal Legislation on Chronic Wasting Disease

- WHEREAS,** chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been reported to represent the single greatest threat to both deer and elk (cervids) and is of increasing concern for outdoor enthusiasts, game and livestock farmers, and wildlife managers; and
- WHEREAS,** CWD has been found in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin as well as the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta; and
- WHEREAS,** where it occurs, CWD in captive and free-ranging cervids represents serious management problems, yet indemnity for depopulating cervids has been made available only recently in the U.S.; in Canada, the magnitude of infection in farmed elk herds detected thus far has cost the Canadian government over \$30 million (Canadian) in indemnity and clean-up funds; and
- WHEREAS,** several state wildlife agencies are aggressively collecting and testing wild elk and deer for the presence of CWD, and have instituted surveillance programs to examine hunter-harvested deer and elk; and
- WHEREAS,** in some Midwestern counties, more than 30 percent of the adult bucks have been shown to carry CWD, and hunters may spread the disease through transportation of non-clinical animals throughout the U.S., as most deer with CWD killed by hunters appear to be healthy; and
- WHEREAS,** bipartisan legislation has been introduced as “HR 4454: the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Act” and “S 2252: the Chronic Wasting Disease Support for States Act” to support State efforts to develop and implement management strategies to address CWD among deer, elk, and moose populations, and to support applied research regarding the causes of CWD and methods to control the further spread of the disease; and now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) urges the enactment of this legislation as stand-alone legislation or as part of the renewal of the farm bill; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state and federal officials.

*Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018 at the 73<sup>rd</sup> MLC Annual Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba*