



Association of Minnesota Counties

March 14, 2022

Representative Rick Hansen
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
407 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Chronic Wasting Disease

Dear Chair Hansen and Committee Members:

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), a membership-based organization representing all 87 Minnesota counties, appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on the legislation (HF2814, HF3273) before your committee to prevent the continued spread of Chronic Wasting Disease in Minnesota.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a lethal neurological disease that affects cervids and was first discovered in a Minnesota at a cervid farm in 2002. In 2010, new concerns emerged as the disease was discovered in the wild herd in southeastern Minnesota. Minnesota has since made efforts to surveil and manage the spread of the disease. Unfortunately, although the state efforts have not been without some successes, we continue to see new cases appearing in locations spread across the state and some critical mistakes by a few cervid farm owners have put the larger wild herd in jeopardy.

AMC has supported state efforts to fund the research and prevention efforts of the Department of Natural Resources, Board of Animal Health and University of Minnesota. However, more needs to be done. We appreciate your committee's continued work to enact comprehensive solutions to slow or eliminate the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease.

If you have any questions regarding AMC's position, please feel free to contact me at bmartinson@mncounties.org or 651-246-4156.

Sincerely,



Brian Martinson, Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties