



USDA UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



MAY 27 2004

The Honorable David R. Obey
U.S. House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4907

Dear Congressman Obey:

Enclosed is the progress report on the *Plan for Assisting States, Federal Agencies and Tribes in Managing Chronic Wasting Disease in Wild and Captive Cervids*. Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and other partners have met and coordinated implementation activities through the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) Wildlife Health Committee, U.S. Animal Health Association, and multi-States Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Working Group. This progress report was initiated by IAFWA and drafted by a Federal and State working group that represents the various CWD stakeholders.

There has been considerable interagency collaboration and accomplishment regarding CWD surveillance, management, and research. Both the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture included funding from fiscal year (FY) 2003 through FY 2005 for CWD work. These agencies have worked with the IAFWA, States, and Tribes to ensure the funding is utilized effectively to address this important disease. As the report describes, State fish and wildlife agencies, State departments of agriculture, and universities have also expended considerable State funds in managing this disease during the report period.

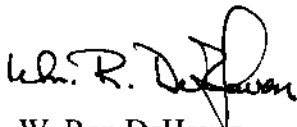
The report highlights significant progress in research, management, and information dissemination concerning CWD over the past 12 months, although more work is needed. The report therefore identifies "next steps," or action areas that the Federal and State Task Force have identified as critical for CWD control efforts.

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We look forward to working together as we continue to address this serious issue.

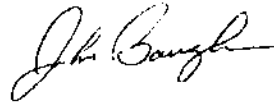
Sincerely,



W. Ron DeHaven
Administrator
Animal and Plant Health
Inspection Service



Steven A. Williams
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service



John Baughman
Executive Vice President
International Association
of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Identical Letters Sent to:

The Honorable Russell Feingold
The Honorable Herbert H. Kohl
The Honorable Wayne Allard
The Honorable Ben Nighthorse Campbell
The Honorable David R. Obey
The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner
The Honorable Joel Hefley
The Honorable Scott McInnis
The Honorable Thomas E. Petri
The Honorable Diana L. DeGette
The Honorable Jerry Kleczka
The Honorable Thomas G. Tancredo
The Honorable Ron J. Kind
The Honorable Mark Udall
The Honorable Mark Green
The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Marilyn Musgrave
The Honorable Bob Beauprez