

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To support State and tribal efforts to develop and implement management strategies to address chronic wasting disease among deer, elk, and moose populations, to support research regarding the causes of chronic wasting disease and methods to control the further spread of the disease, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KIND introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To support State and tribal efforts to develop and implement management strategies to address chronic wasting disease among deer, elk, and moose populations, to support research regarding the causes of chronic wasting disease and methods to control the further spread of the disease, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Chronic Wasting Disease Support for States Act”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Findings.

Sec. 4. Support for State efforts to manage and control chronic wasting disease.

Sec. 5. Support for applied research regarding chronic wasting disease.

Sec. 6. Multi-agency cooperation with States to address chronic wasting disease.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—The term
9 “chronic wasting disease” means the animal disease
10 afflicting among deer, elk, and moose populations
11 that—

12 (A) is a transmissible disease of the nerv-
13 ous system resulting in distinctive lesions in the
14 brain; and

15 (B) belongs to the group of diseases known
16 as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies,
17 which group includes scrapie, bovine spongiform
18 encephalopathy, and Cruetzfeldt-Jakob disease.

19 (2) ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term
20 “eligible grant recipient” means a State department
21 of wildlife, State department of agriculture, college

1 or university, or related research center conducting
2 scientific research regarding chronic wasting disease.

3 (3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
4 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
5 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
6 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

7 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ani-
9 mal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife
10 Services.

11 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

12 Congress finds the following:

13 (1) Pursuant to State and Federal law, the
14 States retain primary and policy-making authority
15 with regard to wildlife management, and nothing in
16 this Act interferes with or otherwise affects the pri-
17 mary authority of the States in managing wildlife
18 generally, or managing, surveying, and monitoring
19 the incidence of chronic wasting disease.

20 (2) Chronic wasting disease, the fatal neuro-
21 logical disease found in cervids, is a fundamental
22 threat to the health and vibrancy of deer, elk, and
23 moose populations, and the increased occurrence of
24 chronic wasting disease in regionally diverse loca-
25 tions in recent months necessitates an escalation in

1 research, surveillance, monitoring, and management
2 activities focused on containing and managing this
3 lethal disease.

4 (3) As the States move to manage existing lev-
5 els of chronic wasting disease and insulate non-
6 infected wild and captive cervid populations from the
7 disease, the Federal Government should endeavor to
8 provide integrated and holistic financial and tech-
9 nical support to these States and the many State de-
10 partments of wildlife, State departments of agri-
11 culture, colleges and universities, and related re-
12 search centers conducting scientific research regard-
13 ing chronic wasting disease.

14 (4) The Secretary should provide consistent, co-
15 herent, and integrated support structures and pro-
16 grams for the benefit of State wildlife and agricul-
17 tural administrators, as chronic wasting disease can
18 move freely between captive and wild cervids across
19 the broad array of Federal, State, tribal, and local
20 land management jurisdictions.

21 (5) The Secretary can provide consistent, coher-
22 ent, and integrated support systems under existing
23 legal authorities to States and the many State de-
24 partments of wildlife, State departments of agri-
25 culture, colleges and universities, and related re-

1 search centers conducting scientific research regard-
2 ing chronic wasting disease.

3 **SEC. 4. SUPPORT FOR STATE EFFORTS TO MANAGE AND**
4 **CONTROL CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.**

5 (a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
6 shall allocate funds made available under subparagraphs
7 (A) and (B) of subsection (e)(1) directly to State and trib-
8 al agencies responsible for wildlife management to support
9 State and tribal efforts to develop and implement manage-
10 ment strategies to address chronic wasting disease.

11 (b) PETITION PROCESS.—A State or tribal agency
12 shall petition the Secretary for a portion of the funds
13 available under subsection (a).

14 (c) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—In determining the
15 amounts to be allocated to State and tribal agencies under
16 subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to States
17 and tribal agencies based on the following criteria:

18 (1) Relative scope of incidence of chronic wast-
19 ing disease on lands of the State or Indian tribe,
20 with priority given to those States and Indian tribes
21 with the highest incidence of the disease.

22 (2) State or tribal expenditures on chronic
23 wasting disease management, monitoring, surveil-
24 lance, and research, with priority given to those
25 States and Indian tribes that have shown the great-

1 est financial commitment to managing, monitoring,
2 surveying, and researching chronic wasting disease.

3 (3) Comprehensive and integrated State or trib-
4 al policies and programs focused on chronic wasting
5 disease management between involved State or tribal
6 wildlife and agricultural agencies, with priority given
7 to those States and Indian tribes that have inte-
8 grated the programs and policies of all involved
9 agencies related to chronic wasting disease manage-
10 ment.

11 (4) Rapid response to new outbreaks of chronic
12 wasting disease, whether occurring in areas in which
13 chronic wasting disease is already found or areas
14 with first infections, with the intent of containing
15 the disease in any new area of infection.

16 (d) RAPID RESPONSE FUND.—The Secretary shall
17 use funds made available under subsection (e)(1)(C) as
18 a rapid response fund to support State and tribal efforts
19 to control the spread of chronic wasting disease upon the
20 detection of chronic wasting disease among deer, elk, or
21 moose populations not previously infected.

22 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
24 appropriated to the Secretary \$35,000,000 to sup-

1 port State and tribal efforts to manage and control
2 chronic wasting disease, of which—

3 (A) \$20,000,000 shall be allocated to
4 States under subsection (a);

5 (B) \$5,000,000 shall be allocated to tribal
6 agencies under subsection (a); and

7 (C) \$10,000,000 shall be retained for the
8 rapid response fund under subsection (d).

9 (2) AVAILABILITY.— Funds appropriated pur-
10 suant to the authorization of appropriations in para-
11 graph (1) shall remain available until expended.

12 (3) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—
13 Not more than three percent of the amount appro-
14 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropria-
15 tions in paragraph (1) may be used to cover admin-
16 istrative expenses incurred by the Secretary.

17 **SEC. 5. SUPPORT FOR APPLIED RESEARCH REGARDING**
18 **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.**

19 (a) EXPANSION OF RESEARCH GRANTS.—The Sec-
20 retary shall make grants to support efforts to expand and
21 accelerate applied research on chronic wasting disease, in-
22 cluding (but not limited to) research regarding the fol-
23 lowing:

24 (1) Methods and products to effectively detect
25 infectious prions in, and decontaminate infectious

1 prions from natural environments and inorganic sur-
2 faces.

3 (2) Sustainable cervid harvest management
4 practices to reduce chronic wasting disease occur-
5 rence and to prevent or limit spatial spread of
6 chronic wasting disease.

7 (3) Management experiments and strategies de-
8 signed for long-term suppression of chronic wasting
9 disease.

10 (4) Harvest management practices and other
11 practices that exacerbate chronic wasting disease oc-
12 currence, with an emphasis on retrospective analyses
13 of available harvest management and chronic wast-
14 ing disease trend data.

15 (5) Factors contributing to local emergence of
16 chronic wasting disease, increased prevalence of
17 chronic wasting disease, and distribution of chronic
18 wasting disease, including mechanisms of disease
19 transmission and effective barriers to transmission.

20 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
22 appropriated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 to make
23 grants under subsection (a).

1 (2) AVAILABILITY.— Funds appropriated pur-
2 suant to the authorization of appropriations in para-
3 graph (1) shall remain available until expended.

4 (3) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—
5 Not more than three percent of the amount appro-
6 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropri-
7 ations in paragraph (1) may be used to cover admin-
8 istrative expenses incurred by the Secretary.

9 **SEC. 6. MULTI-AGENCY COOPERATION WITH STATES TO AD-**
10 **DRESS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.**

11 Land management agencies of the Department of Ag-
12 riculture and the Department of the Interior shall work
13 cooperatively with States—

14 (1) in the conduct of research regarding chronic
15 wasting disease; and

16 (2) in the implementation of State chronic
17 wasting disease response plans to reduce the spread
18 and prevalence of chronic wasting disease.