

Bluffland Whitetails Association

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Dear Mr. Strohmeier,

I am unable to attend the hearing scheduled on Tuesday September 1st, but I wanted to enter written testimony on the issue of Chronic Wasting Disease [CWD] efforts. I am attaching a link to a peer reviewed study CWD transmission through oral exposure that I would like the Committee to have (and enter into the record).

CWD continues to pose a significant threat to Minnesota's wild cervid herd. In addition to the health of our wild deer, there are threats to our outdoor recreation and the industries that benefit from deer hunting across the State. Actions by the Board of Animal Health to manage threats from the captive cervid industry have been slow and largely unmeasurable in protecting our State's natural asset.

As we learn more about CWD we see new evidence that the disease could become increasingly problematic due to prions binding to plants. This may lead to additional vectors of transmission that could rapidly spread the disease across the state. There has also been concern raised that CWD could bind to water sources, which would also be catastrophic should research confirm this hypothesis.

Bluffland Whitetails Association urges the legislature to enact significant legislation to contain and manage the spread of CWD, to protect the health of our wild deer, and to preserve our strong deer hunting tradition.

Warm regards,
John Zanmiller

Link: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0237410>