



(763) 427-3350 • 800-USE-LURE(873-5873) • Fax (763) 427-8354  
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- **Scent Elimination**
- **Attractor Scents**
- **Masking Scents**
- **Scent Dispensers**

America's Top Brand®

May 11, 2022

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen  
Senator David Tomassoni  
Senator Justin Eichorn  
Senator Bill Weber  
Senator Kent Eken

Representative Rick Hansen  
Representative Ami Wazlawik  
Representative Kelly Morrison  
Representative Todd Lippert  
Representative Josh Heintzeman

RE: RT-QuIC

Dear Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Conference Committee:

I am writing to express Wildlife Research Center's support for and confidence in RT-QuIC testing.

A family business based in Ramsey, Minnesota, Wildlife Research Center is an industry leader in Urine-Based Scent and Scent Elimination products used by deer hunters across the state and country.

Wildlife Research Center shares the concerns of deer hunters and public policy officials about the potential CWD contamination of Minnesota's wild deer herd. Recognizing the adverse effects of CWD on wild deer herds, Wildlife Research Center has actively engaged in science-based efforts to prevent the spread of CWD. As a family owned business dependent on a vibrant and healthy wild deer herd, and as avid hunters ourselves, we consider it our responsibility to do so.

More than half a decade ago, with the help of the Archery Trade Association, hunting scent industry leaders worked with Wildlife Agencies, Wildlife Disease Experts and industry experts, to develop a set of rigorous standards and strict biosecurity measures to protect the facilities where the urine in our scent products comes from, providing safe sources of urine-based scent products. These standards go above and beyond state and federal regulations. The result was the establishment of the Deer Protection Program (DPP).

Program compliance is measured by verification of required paperwork and inspection reports completed by 3<sup>rd</sup> party accredited veterinarians. Additional facility inspections may be conducted to ensure compliance. Only upon verification of compliance of all DPP measures is a participant certified and allowed to use the DPP checkmark certification trademark logo on their packaging.



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The Deer Protection Program is built on top of the USDA Herd Certification Program and, in addition to federal and state- approved CWD program guidelines, the Program:

- I. prohibits urine production facilities from importing live cervids;
- II. requires that all cervids exported from the facility be tested for chronic wasting disease upon death;
- III. mandates annual inspections by an accredited veterinarian, including inspection of the herd, facilities and applicable records; and
- IV. specifies construction and maintenance of an 8-foot or higher perimeter fence to protect the facility and, in CWD zones, a double perimeter fence to prevent direct contact between captive and wild cervids.

**CWD has never been found in a Deer Protection Program collection facility.**

In further effort to ensure safe and responsible hunting scent products, industry leaders in 2019 began to take yet another step and began RT-QulC testing every lot of urine used in these products. Since then, it has become yet another requirement of the Deer Protection Program.

**RT-QulC testing is used as a final conformation to ensure that the deer urine in these products poses no risk to wildlife.**

Independent testing of each lot of deer urine is performed prior to distribution of any DPP urine product. No urine from DPP facilities has tested positive for CWD which is congruent with the current CWD free status of the DPP deer herds providing urine to the scent industry,

RT-QulC is a reliable test to determine if prions are present in urine and many other samples as well. RT-QulC testing is the next generation of CWD tests and is being used widely in the veterinary diagnostic world to detect CWD. Several universities and states are exploring Rt-QulC as a method for live animal testing and surveillance, and more than 40 peer reviewed papers have confirmed the validity of RT-QulC as a detection assay for prion diseases like CWD.

RT-QulC testing is currently not a USDA approved test for CWD. However, the USDA and multiple states have turned to RT-QulC testing for accurate and reliable answers about the CWD status of many sample types.

The USDA is currently in the process of a pilot study to also determine the effectiveness of RT-QulC as a live animal test for CWD. Multiple states are currently interested or pushing for the adoption of RT-QulC as a live animal test for CWD. We anticipate this will happen relatively soon.



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Understanding the threat that CWD poses to wild deer herds, WRC and other industry leaders, as business owners and hunters that depend on a healthy, vibrant deer population appreciate the efforts that our state legislators and officials are putting into combatting Chronic Wasting Disease.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with legislators, regulators, hunters, and the general public what Wildlife Research Center and other industry leaders are doing to protect wild deer.

Sincerely,

Sam Burgeson, President  
Wildlife Research Center