



Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc.

RESOLUTION

**The use of products that include natural deer urine,
feces, or any other bodily fluid or excretion
and the risk of chronic wasting disease**

WHEREAS, free-ranging cervids, particularly the white-tailed deer, are an important and valuable wildlife resource held in public trust by state and provincial governments; and

WHEREAS, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a known threat to the health of the region's free-ranging deer resource and hunting heritage; and

WHEREAS, previous resolutions adopted by the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Inc. (NEAFWA) regarding CWD (<http://www.neafwa.org/resolutions.html>) have cited the risks of captive cervids on the region's free-ranging deer resource, and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, and urge every measure possible be taken to prevent the spread of CWD; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Federal Rule regarding captive cervids and CWD does not adequately protect the free-ranging deer resource; and

WHEREAS, industry standards are voluntary, unenforceable, and cannot guarantee that products that include natural cervid urine, feces, or other bodily fluids or excretions are free of disease causing agents; and

WHEREAS, CWD prions have been detected in urine, feces, saliva, and other bodily fluids of pre-symptomatic cervids and remain infectious in the environment for many years; and

WHEREAS, CWD prions shed into the environment by CWD infected cervids are sufficient to transmit the disease to uninfected deer for many years in the absence of direct animal-to-animal contact; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no USDA-approved ante-mortem test for CWD or available commercial test to detect prions in urine; and

WHEREAS, regulatory authority of captive cervid facilities frequently lie within state and provincial agricultural departments which have a different mission than state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies and often are not given adequate resources to monitor captive cervid facilities or enforce captive cervid regulations; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of hunting and the intrinsic value of free-ranging deer resources far outweigh that of the captive cervid industry; and



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WHEREAS, alternative synthetic products are readily available and studies have shown they are equally effective;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NEAFWA strongly encourages all state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies to work diligently to ban the use of natural-based cervid urine products and other bodily fluids in their respective jurisdictions.

Adopted: November 1, 2017