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Citizen Resolution # 270216

(For Hearing Officer completion)

Seeking Legislation to Guide Deer Removal in CWD Positive Captive/Farmed Herds

The health of Wisconsin's deer herd is important to tourism and recreation, and is the source for significant revenue for the state.

Sometimes, captive deer herds are found with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). This is a fatal deer disease, with no cure. Often, these herds are euthanized to help prevent the spread of CWD to the wild deer population.

Recently in Eau Claire County, while negotiating funding to financially reimburse the owner a condemned herd, an escape occurred. This escape placed the wild deer herd in the area a greater risk of infection. Ultimately, it was several months between when the order to euthanize the herd was given and it was carried out.

Once a herd is identified for elimination, the only delay should be the logistics of performing the euthanasia itself. Administrative and support activities, including financial reimbursement should not be cause to delay. Allowing an infected herd to sit for months while administrative details are still working through the system is an unnecessary risk to our wild deer population.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress work with the D.N.R. and the Natural Resources Board to seek legislation that places a time limit on euthanizing captive deer herds that are CWD positive to no more than 30 days from the day the order is given. Furthermore, this legislation should also specify that administrative and support activities, including indemnity payments, should not cause the 30 days to be extended or paused.

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