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Resolution 2002-01-06 Support for the National Chronic Wasting Disease Plan

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 2002-01-06

SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE PLAN

WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy that poses a significant risk to the health of both free-ranging and captive deer and elk; and

WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease has the potential to adversely impact wildlife populations, limit interest in recreational and commercial use of deer and elk, and negatively impact rural economies; and

WHEREAS, a consortium of tribal, state wildlife and federal agencies has developed a National Plan to better manage chronic wasting disease in both free-ranging and captive deer and elk; and

WHEREAS, this plan identifies needed funding for managing the risks associated with the spread of this disease which will benefit both wildlife populations and the rural economies supported by hunting and wildlife watching; and

WHEREAS, with the increase in detection of this disease in new areas of the country, chronic wasting disease has emerged as a national crisis; and

WHEREAS, no single agency or organization, alone, has the resources to effectively address this problem.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges Congress to fully fund the National Plan for dealing with chronic wasting disease and all its components.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congressional actions for funding recognize state management authority for resident wildlife, that accomplishment of the goals within the National Plan is contingent upon the full involvement of state wildlife management agencies working in cooperation with appropriate agencies, and that federal funding be dispersed through the appropriate federal agencies to state agencies, tribal agencies and state universities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to all member agencies, other cooperating state agencies and the appropriate agencies in the Departments of Agriculture and Interior.