



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

April 12, 2016

The Honorable Scott Walker  
Room 115 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

As members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage and avid sportsmen, we are writing to express our concern with recently released data from your Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that shows nearly 10% of tested deer in Wisconsin tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in 2015. With the rate of infection steadily increasing over the last several years, we are requesting you work with DNR Secretary Stepp to immediately develop a comprehensive plan to address this troubling trend.

As a fellow sportsman, I'm sure this is also an issue of great importance to you personally. CWD has already affected 41 of 72 counties in Wisconsin. While we appreciate efforts currently being taken by your administration, without a real acknowledgement of the concerning increase in CWD that has been revealed over the last eight years, we fear that the scope of this issue will continue to worsen, reaching every corner of the state.

You are well aware that Wisconsin's deer herd is an invaluable resource to our state. The state's nine-day gun deer hunt season is a billion dollar industry on its own and the proud heritage of hunting deer is a tradition that runs deep in countless Wisconsin families. With CWD levels reaching alarming numbers, an important part of Wisconsin's identity and culture is at stake. We cannot stress enough the importance of addressing this issue in a swift and responsible manner. No doubt you have seen the news reports that the DNR is downplaying the seriousness of CWD in Wisconsin. The time for action is now.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future about a comprehensive plan to work towards lowering infection rates over the next several years. The vitality of our deer herd and the enjoyment sportsmen take from harvesting healthy deer every fall is at stake. We would be happy to offer our insights on this issue should you request it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Milroy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nick Milroy  
State Representative  
73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Danou". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chris Danou  
State Representative  
92<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

cc: DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp