



College of
Agricultural & Life Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

August 22nd, 2018

Jeff Jacobsen

NCRA Executive Director

jjacobsn@msu.edu

Dear Jeff:

I write in strong support of Drs. Pedersen and Porter's proposal to form a North Central Development Committee to write a proposed multistate project entitled "North American interdisciplinary chronic wasting disease consortium". I am impressed by the energy and results produced by the coinvestigators and the strength of their proposal to catalyze a multidisciplinary effort by scientists from all the major CWD-affected regions in North America to address this grave threat. Dr. Joel Pedersen, an expert in prion detection in soils, from our Department of Soil Science will represent the University of Wisconsin-Madison and co-lead the effort. Additionally, given the importance of this issue to the state of Wisconsin, I offer to serve as the administrative advisor for this effort, if that is acceptable to you all. Dr. Pedersen and I have worked closely with Drs. Douglas Buhler and William Porter at Michigan State University and jointly submit this request for consideration. Dr. Buhler will also submit a letter of support for the committee to consider.

Southern Wisconsin and central Michigan represent the focus of CWD infection of wild cervids in the upper Midwest, thus the appropriateness of central involvement of faculty from the UW-Madison and Michigan State University. The proposal well explains the impact and threat of the unchecked spread of chronic wasting disease. An urgent need to address this disease exists. This proposal represents an important first step toward a major coordinated research effort, for no comparable project exists within the SAES system.

Please feel free to contact me should you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

William W. Barker
Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies

cc: C. Hamilton
D. Buhler
W. Porter
J. Pedersen
G. Smith

Office of the Dean and Director

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