116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S._____

To authorize a special resource study on the spread vectors of chronic wasting disease in Cervidae, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Barrasso (for himself, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Jones, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Boozman, Mrs. Capito, Ms. Collins, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Enzi, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Gardner, Ms. Hassan, Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Johnson, Mr. King, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Manchin, Mr. Peters, Ms. Smith, Mr. Thune, Mr. Udall, Mr. Wicker, and Mr. Wyden) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To authorize a special resource study on the spread vectors of chronic wasting disease in Cervidae, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Chronic Wasting Disease Transmission in Cervidae Study Act”.

6 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

7 In this Act:
(1) ACADEMY.—The term "Academy" means the National Academy of Sciences.

(2) CERVID.—The term "cervid" means any species within the family Cervidae.

(3) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—The term "chronic wasting disease" means the animal disease afflicting deer, elk, and moose populations that—

(A) is a transmissible disease of the nervous system resulting in distinctive lesions in the brain; and

(B) belongs to the group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, which group includes scrapie, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

(4) SECRETARIES.—The term "Secretaries" means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

SEC. 3. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TRANSMISSION IN CERVIDAE RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) Study.—
(1) In General.—The Secretaries shall enter into an arrangement with the Academy under which the Academy shall conduct, and submit to the Secretaries a report describing the findings of, a special resource study to identify the predominant pathways and mechanisms of the transmission of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States.

(2) Requirements.—The arrangement under paragraph (1) shall provide that the actual expenses incurred by the Academy in conducting the study under paragraph (1) shall be paid by the Secretaries.

(b) Contents of the Study.—The study under subsection (a) shall—

(1) with respect to wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States, identify—

(A)(i) the pathways and mechanisms for the transmission of chronic wasting disease within live cervid populations and cervid products, which may include pathways and mechanisms for transmission from Canada;

(ii) the infection rates for each pathway and mechanism identified under clause (i); and
(iii) the relative frequency of transmission
of each pathway and mechanism identified
under clause (i);

(B)(i) anthropogenic and environmental
factors contributing to new chronic wasting dis-
case emergence events;

(ii) the development of geographical areas
with increased chronic wasting disease preva-
lence; and

(iii) the overall geographical patterns of
chronic wasting disease distribution;

(C) significant gaps in current scientific
knowledge regarding the transmission pathways
and mechanisms identified under subparagraph
(A)(i); and

(D) for prioritization the scientific research
projects that will address the knowledge gaps
identified under subparagraph (C); and

(2) review and compare science-based best prac-
tices, standards, and guidance regarding the man-
age of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive,
and farmed populations of cervids in the United
States that have been developed by—
(A) the National Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service;

(B) the United States Geological Survey;

and

(C) State wildlife and agricultural agencies, in the case of practices, standards, and guidance that provide practical, science-based recommendations to State and Federal agencies for minimizing or eliminating the risk of transmission of chronic wasting disease in the United States.

c) **Deadline.**—The study under subsection (a) shall be completed not later than 180 days after the date on which funds are first made available for the study.

d) **Data Sharing.**—The Secretaries shall share with the entity conducting the study under subsection (a) data and access to databases on chronic wasting disease under the jurisdiction of—

(1) the Veterinary Services Program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

(2) the United States Geological Survey.

e) **Report.**—On completion of the study, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Energy and Nat-
ural Resources, and the Committee on Environment and
Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
culture and the Committee on Natural Resources of the
House of Representatives a report that describes—
(1) the findings of the study; and
(2) any conclusions and recommendations that
the Secretaries determine to be appropriate.