



LaVar Payne, MP
Medicine Hat Constituency

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RE: Form letters received regarding the Canadian Cervid Industry

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Dear Constituents:

I have received several letters regarding the Canadian Cervid Industry. After consulting with officials from CFIA, I was able to obtain some information which should be useful.

Various stakeholders have raised issues with the proposed measures associated with a declaration of the primary control zone for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is working diligently with these groups to address specific issues and minimize the impact of the requirements on the affected industries.

Alberta provincial ministries have worked with the CFIA in a task force to look at disease control options for CWD and have also provided comments during the national consultation indicating support for sub-provincial zoning. The national consultation also included cervid producers from Alberta and across Canada. The inclusion of approximately 40 Alberta cervid producers in a proposed primary control zone that takes account of the current distribution of CWD in Canada would enable the CFIA to start internationally promoting trade in all cervid commodities (including live cervids) for the remaining Alberta cervid producers, which number more than 200, something that has not been previously possible.

The CFIA will continue to work with stakeholders to develop a program for CWD that achieves a balance between risk containment and viability of the western cervid industry.

Regards,

LaVar Payne, M.P.
Medicine Hat Constituency