

Michigan United Conservation Clubs: *The First Voice for Michigan 's Great Out-of-Doors*

## A Call to Action □ Michigan's Deer Herd Needs Your Help

HB 6245, sponsored by Representative Tom Casperson (R, Escanaba), would regulate the state's captive cervid facilities ensuring that proper precautions are taken to keep CWD out of Michigan's wild deer herd. HB 6245, currently on its second reading in the House, resulted from the recommendations of a captive cervid workgroup which was convened by Governor Granholm and Director Humphries of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The members of the group included MUCC and representatives of the conservation community, the MDNR, Lt. Governor's office, Michigan Farm Bureau, Captive Cervid industry, US Department of Agriculture, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Using the results of the MDNR audit, this diverse group outlined the future regulation of Michigan's captive deer and elk industry. All groups represented by the captive cervid workgroup support HB 6245, which includes an increase in licensing fees.

Michigan is still a CWD-free state, but to keep it out we MUST properly regulate potential pathways, including captive cervid facilities, into the state. In just the last couple of years we have watched Illinois, New York, West Virginia, and Kansas become CWD positive states and have still taken no action to properly regulate Michigan's captive cervid industry. Now is the time to act with the cooperation of both the industry and the groups associated with it.

MUCC needs your help. Call your State Representative and tell them that HB 6245 is important to you and provides critical protections for Michigan's free ranging deer herd. Tell them the bill is supported by MUCC, Farm Bureau, and

the members of the captive cervid industry. Michigan's sportsmen and Michigan's free ranging deer herd can't wait until 2007 for action on this important issue!

If you need help finding your State Representative or have any questions please call MUCC at 517-346-6472 or go to [www.mucc.org](http://www.mucc.org) for more information.