

# Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania



Established 1983

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*“The largest statewide individual membership sporting advocacy organization in the Commonwealth”*

Conservation supported through thousands of voices for hunting, fishing, trapping and our second amendment gun rights.

### USP CORRESPONDENCE

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**USP Membership**

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## Chronic Wasting Disease Position Statement

### Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania

February 26, 2019

Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania is proud to announce that we are expanding our partnership agreement with Dr. Frank Bastian toward the control of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Pennsylvania and throughout America, and toward the advancement of science in the protection of human health. As has been recently announced, Dr. Bastian has made a breakthrough discovery of the spiroplasma bacteria that are the cause of CWD, and projects the near-future development of diagnostic test kits and vaccines to control the disease, save our great herds of deer and elk, and protect human health.

Toward this end, Unified has expanded from a three-year agreement to now working directly with Dr. Bastian in conducting a 10-year CWD and human health program. As requested by government, expanding the research plan from three to ten years would permit Dr. Bastian to accelerate his research efforts and discoveries. This expanded agreement will permit Unified to help in providing required funding and facilitate research operations.

A part of this long-term plan is to develop a CWD and neurodegenerative TSE research center, permitting Dr. Bastian to focus on the rapid development of diagnostic hunter test kits and vaccines. In addition, a second focus of the program requires the field testing and application of these disease remediation strategies. As such, Unified will coordinate these pilot-testing operations in Pennsylvania under the scientific advisory services of John Eveland, making Pennsylvania a National Demonstration Project in the control of CWD. Unified and Pennsylvania will, also, assist Dr. Bastian in the training and distribution of these products and strategies to other wildlife and CWD disease management agencies throughout America.

This is an exciting event and unique opportunity for Unified, the State of Pennsylvania, and all those citizens and organizations who desperately wish for an answer for a disease that, to date, has continued unabated to ravish our herds of deer and elk, and that threatens the permanent integrity of our natural ecosystems.

Under the best time frame, it is projected to require up to 18 months to develop the diagnostic hunter test kit and a successive year for the development of each of two antibiotic vaccines. Until field testing has been completed, Dr. Bastian's strategies might not be available for broad-scale implementation into wild herds of deer and elk for 4-5 years. It is now evident that at the current rate of progression of CWD in Pennsylvania, by that time the disease may be fully imbedded in our elk herd and spread so far within the Commonwealth's deer herd to make it excessively challenging to contain the disease.

Therefore, Unified is also announcing our full and unconditional support of a bill by State Representative David Maloney that is designed to implement new, scientific, regulatory methods toward halting the progression of the disease until Dr. Bastian's strategies come on-line. We heartily encourage the Pennsylvania General Assembly and Office of the Governor to expedite passage of this bill in a common cause with Unified and the citizens of the Commonwealth to stop CWD and protect human health.

We all have family members or friends who have fallen to related neurodegenerative transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) diseases such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), Parkinson's Disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease), and Alzheimer's Disease. There is now hope that Dr. Bastian's 10-year program will shine a new light on the prevention and cure of these devastating human diseases.

#### Unified's CWD Committee:

- Wayne Haas, CWD Project Director
- Phil Wagner, President of Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania
- Steve Mohr, Chairman of the Board
- Pete Kingsley, Treasurer of Unified

#### Scientific Advisory Services:

- John Eveland, Wildlife and CWD Biologist

Please join Unified Sportsmen's CWD Sponsored Research Partnership at [www.gousp.org](http://www.gousp.org) or GoFundMe program.