**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE BAITING AND FEEDING OF CERVIDS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION AND ESTABLISHMENT**

WHEREAS, baiting (placement of food by humans to aid hunter harvest), recreational feeding (placement of food by humans to aid in wildlife viewing for entertainment) and supplemental feeding (placement of food by humans to increase the nutrition available to wildlife) congregate animals and increase transmission of infectious diseases;

WHEREAS, increased transmission of diseases in deer may place wildlife, domestic livestock and public health at risk;

WHEREAS, some infectious diseases such as chronic wasting disease (CWD) and bovine tuberculosis (TB) may remain infectious at bait or feed sites after the feed or bait no longer exists;

WHEREAS, baiting and feeding artificially concentrates deer and their activity, facilitating both animal-to-animal contact and exposure to potentially disease-contaminated sites;

WHEREAS, evidence to date suggests that restrictions on feeding quantity would not mitigate the potential for disease transmission and that putative mitigating practices such as spreading feed or bait over a specified area, or restricting the kinds of food items that can be used does not substantially reduce the potential risk for disease transmission;

WHEREAS, baiting and feeding may both change social dynamics among animals and increase contacts between otherwise disparate individuals, groups, or species-another risk factor for disease transmission;

WHEREAS, peer-reviewed research suggests the effects of baiting for increasing harvest is insignificant;

WHEREAS, diseases such as CWD and TB can result in devastating economic losses and/or significant ecological impacts;

WHEREAS, effective communication, education and enforcement are enhanced when rules and regulations are consistent across state and provincial boundaries;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MAFWA acknowledges the social and political sensitivity associated with restricting baiting and feeding cervids.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MAFWA agrees with the current wildlife research and expertise that illustrates the negative effects of baiting and feeding of cervids on disease transmission and establishment.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MAFWA recommends advancing this issue of baiting and feeding restrictions to AFWA for development of a national position on baiting and feeding of cervids to reduce the risk of disease transmission and establishment.