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**SUPPORT FOR ADDED STAFF CAPACITY AND RESOURCES TO RESPOND TO  
FISH AND WILDLIFE HEALTH THREATS**

**WHEREAS**, health threats that can adversely impact fish and wildlife populations continue to expand across the United States and Canada, including chronic wasting disease, viral hemorrhagic septicemia, epizootic hemorrhagic disease, and white nose syndrome; and

**WHEREAS**, new zoonotic diseases have emerged, including highly pathogenic avian influenza and SARS-CoV-2, that affect humans as well as wild and domestic animal populations, and concerns are heightened over disease reservoirs and the role wildlife may play in future pandemics; and

**WHEREAS**, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) States and Provinces are concerned that fish and wildlife agencies lack the capacity to respond adequately to these health threats due to a lack of staff capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, federal dollars have recently become available to support wildlife agencies working on chronic wasting disease and zoonotic disease threats; and

**WHEREAS**, the MAFWA States and Provinces see increased funding as pivotal opportunities for wildlife agencies to invest resources on establishing or expanding fish and wildlife health programs to meet the increasing demand for subject matter expertise, surveillance and sampling capacity, stakeholder engagement and public outreach on key disease issues

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors at its annual meeting in Custer State Park, South Dakota on June 30, 2022 support the need to invest resources into expanding fish and wildlife health programs in their States and Provinces.