



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

PO BOX 201704  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1704  
(406) 444-3742

**GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK**  
**DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE**  
PATRICK HOLMES

**HOUSE MEMBERS**  
WILLIS CURDY  
STEVE GUNDERSON  
BRADLEY MAXON HAMLETT  
JIM KEANE  
THERESA MANZELLA  
KERRY WHITE

**SENATE MEMBERS**  
PAT FLOWERS  
STEVE HINEBAUCH  
MIKE LANG  
JP POMNICHOWSKI  
CARY SMITH  
GENE VUCKOVICH

**PUBLIC MEMBERS**  
SCOTT ASPENLIEDER  
JOHN C BRENDEN  
REX ROGERS  
MATT VINCENT

**COUNCIL STAFF**  
TREVOR GRAFF, Research Analyst  
JASON MOHR, Research Analyst  
HOPE STOCKWELL, Research Analyst  
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary  
JOE CARROLL, Legal Staff  
JOE KOLMAN, Legislative Environmental Analyst

June 27, 2019

Senator Jon Tester  
311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-2604

Dear Senator Tester,

I write on behalf of the Montana Legislature's Environmental Quality Council (EQC) to urge swift enactment of federal legislation that provides funding to states for research and response to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), including capital projects such as the construction of sorely needed laboratory testing facilities.

Currently, our state Veterinary Diagnostic Lab located on the campus of Montana State University in Bozeman does not have the necessary facilities or equipment to test for CWD or safely dispose of testing samples. Instead, tests are sent out of state to a lab that is not required to prioritize our tests in its queue, often delaying results for up to three weeks. Given the recent discovery of CWD in Lincoln County – the state's third geographic region impacted by the disease thus far – and the importance of hunting to our state economy and the subsistence of many residents, developing CWD testing capacity within Montana is paramount to human, domestic livestock, and wildlife health here.

With CWD now present in more than 20 states, a federal investment in basic CWD research and infrastructure is an investment in the health and economic future of our nation. Please make public and animal health research a high priority by investing in the infrastructure necessary to address CWD. We specifically ask that you investigate and include any Congressional directive or legislative changes needed to allow Pittman-Robertson (P-R) funding to be used. The development of readily available CWD testing facilities is clearly part and parcel of the following currently allowed uses of P-R funding:

- management of wildlife for public benefit;
- research on the problems of managing wildlife; and
- obtaining data to guide and direct the regulation of hunting.

Senator, thank you for your attention to this issue. Please let me know if I or the EQC staff can be of assistance as you proceed.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jim Keane, Chairman

CC: Martha Williams, Director, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks  
Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer, Department of Livestock  
Ben Thomas, Director, Department of Agriculture  
Steve Baiamonte, General Services Division Administrator, Department of Administration  
Casey Lozar, Chair, Montana Board of Regents  
Fred Wacker, President, Montana Stockgrowers Association  
Kevin Halverson, President, Montana Wool Growers Association  
Senator Steve Daines  
Representative Greg Gianforte



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

PO BOX 201704  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1704  
(406) 444-3742

**GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK**  
**DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE**  
PATRICK HOLMES

**HOUSE MEMBERS**  
WILLIS CURDY  
STEVE GUNDERSON  
BRADLEY MAXON HAMLETT  
JIM KEANE  
THERESA MANZELLA  
KERRY WHITE

**SENATE MEMBERS**  
PAT FLOWERS  
STEVE HINEBAUCH  
MIKE LANG  
JP POMNICHOWSKI  
CARY SMITH  
GENE VUCKOVICH

**PUBLIC MEMBERS**  
SCOTT ASPENLIEDER  
JOHN C BRENDEN  
REX ROGERS  
MATT VINCENT

**COUNCIL STAFF**  
TREVOR GRAFF, Research Analyst  
JASON MOHR, Research Analyst  
HOPE STOCKWELL, Research Analyst  
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary  
JOE CARROLL, Legal Staff  
JOE KOLMAN, Legislative Environmental Analyst

June 27, 2019

Senator Steve Daines  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-2604

Dear Senator Daines,

I write on behalf of the Montana Legislature's Environmental Quality Council (EQC) to urge swift enactment of federal legislation that provides funding to states for research and response to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), including capital projects such as the construction of sorely needed laboratory testing facilities.

Currently, our state Veterinary Diagnostic Lab located on the campus of Montana State University in Bozeman does not have the necessary facilities or equipment to test for CWD or safely dispose of testing samples. Instead, tests are sent out of state to a lab that is not required to prioritize our tests in its queue, often delaying results for up to three weeks. Given the recent discovery of CWD in Lincoln County – the state's third geographic region impacted by the disease thus far – and the importance of hunting to our state economy and the subsistence of many residents, developing CWD testing capacity within Montana is paramount to human, domestic livestock, and wildlife health here.

With CWD now present in more than 20 states, a federal investment in basic CWD research and infrastructure is an investment in the health and economic future of our nation. Please make public and animal health research a high priority by investing in the infrastructure necessary to address CWD. We specifically ask that you investigate and include any Congressional directive or legislative changes needed to allow Pittman-Robertson (P-R) funding to be used. The development of readily available CWD testing facilities is clearly part and parcel of the following currently allowed uses of P-R funding:

- management of wildlife for public benefit;
- research on the problems of managing wildlife; and
- obtaining data to guide and direct the regulation of hunting.

Senator, thank you for your attention to this issue. Please let me know if I or the EQC staff can be of assistance as you proceed.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jim Keane, Chairman

CC: Martha Williams, Director, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks  
Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer, Department of Livestock  
Ben Thomas, Director, Department of Agriculture  
Steve Baiamonte, General Services Division Administrator, Department of Administration  
Casey Lozar, Chair, Montana Board of Regents  
Fred Wacker, President, Montana Stockgrowers Association  
Kevin Halverson, President, Montana Wool Growers Association  
Senator Jon Tester  
Representative Greg Gianforte



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

PO BOX 201704  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1704  
(406) 444-3742

**GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK**  
**DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE**  
PATRICK HOLMES

**HOUSE MEMBERS**  
WILLIS CURDY  
STEVE GUNDERSON  
BRADLEY MAXON HAMLETT  
JIM KEANE  
THERESA MANZELLA  
KERRY WHITE

**SENATE MEMBERS**  
PAT FLOWERS  
STEVE HINEBAUCH  
MIKE LANG  
JP POMNICHOWSKI  
CARY SMITH  
GENE VUCKOVICH

**PUBLIC MEMBERS**  
SCOTT ASPENLIEDER  
JOHN C BRENDEN  
REX ROGERS  
MATT VINCENT

**COUNCIL STAFF**  
TREVOR GRAFF, Research Analyst  
JASON MOHR, Research Analyst  
HOPE STOCKWELL, Research Analyst  
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary  
JOE CARROLL, Legal Staff  
JOE KOLMAN, Legislative Environmental Analyst

June 27, 2019

Representative Greg Gianforte  
1222 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gianforte,

I write on behalf of the Montana Legislature's Environmental Quality Council (EQC) to urge swift enactment of federal legislation that provides funding to states for research and response to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), including capital projects such as the construction of sorely needed laboratory testing facilities.

Currently, our state Veterinary Diagnostic Lab located on the campus of Montana State University in Bozeman does not have the necessary facilities or equipment to test for CWD or safely dispose of testing samples. Instead, tests are sent out of state to a lab that is not required to prioritize our tests in its queue, often delaying results for up to three weeks. Given the recent discovery of CWD in Lincoln County – the state's third geographic region impacted by the disease thus far – and the importance of hunting to our state economy and the subsistence of many residents, developing CWD testing capacity within Montana is paramount to human, domestic livestock, and wildlife health here.

With CWD now present in more than 20 states, a federal investment in basic CWD research and infrastructure is an investment in the health and economic future of our nation. Please make public and animal health research a high priority by investing in the infrastructure necessary to address CWD. We specifically ask that you investigate and include any Congressional directive or legislative changes needed to allow Pittman-Robertson (P-R) funding to be used. The development of readily available CWD testing facilities is clearly part and parcel of the following currently allowed uses of P-R funding:

- management of wildlife for public benefit;
- research on the problems of managing wildlife; and
- obtaining data to guide and direct the regulation of hunting.

Representative, thank you for your attention to this issue. Please let me know if I or the EQC staff can be of assistance as you proceed.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jim Keane, Chairman

CC: Martha Williams, Director, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks  
Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer, Department of Livestock  
Ben Thomas, Director, Department of Agriculture  
Steve Baiamonte, General Services Division Administrator, Department of Administration  
Casey Lozar, Chair, Montana Board of Regents  
Fred Wacker, President, Montana Stockgrowers Association  
Kevin Halverson, President, Montana Wool Growers Association  
Senator Jon Tester  
Senator Steve Daines