

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Alyssa Grayson <agrayson@uri.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:45 PM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Subject:** Support for H7294

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you as a constituent of Warwick, Rhode Island and a professional wildlife biologist. Though I am not able to attend the hearing tonight, I would like to express my strong support for H7294.

Limitations on the importation of captive wildlife for hunting purposes is more important now than ever, considering the unrelenting spread of Chronic Wasting Disease into new states each year. This deadly prion disease spreads through cervid populations, affecting the overall health of the herd and costing states anywhere between \$8,000 and \$2 million per year to continue to monitor and contain CWD-affected areas. Once shed, prions can persist in the environment and remain transmissible for long periods of time, making the disease extremely difficult to eradicate once an area is infected. New England remains one of few CWD-free areas in the nation, so allowing the introduction of captive cervids to our landscape could have devastating impacts on our wildlife and our economy. Chronic Wasting Disease remains one of the many concerns for free-ranging wildlife health when transporting captive cervids across state lines. For this reason, I strongly support the prohibition of captive hunting in Rhode Island.

Thank you for considering my comment,  
Alyssa Grayson  
Warwick, Rhode Island