**SUBJECT: “ “**

**I hope this email finds you well. You are invited to participate in a research study focused on white-tailed deer management by state agencies in the Southeastern United States. This study is being conducted by Dr. Belsare at the Auburn University College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Environment, in support of two graduate research projects he advises.**

**The goal of this study is to learn directly from state deer biologists like yourself about how management strategies are adapting in response to emerging issues such as disease, climate change, shifting hunter participation, and new technologies.**

**We’re hoping to schedule informal conversations (**ideally in person but remote is also an option**) with professionals across Southeastern, Southern, and Midwestern states. These discussions will help guide our respective graduate projects on deer population modeling and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). All participating individuals and agencies will be invited to a follow-up workshop hosted by Auburn University, where we’ll share findings and facilitate group discussions on successes, challenges, and future directions.**

Our goal is to learn from your experience and eventually bring together insights from across states to help inform future collaboration and innovation. If you're open to meeting, we’d love to schedule a time that works for you. Please let us know your availability, and we’ll make it work.

Thank you for your time and for the work you do!

**If you have any questions about this study, please contact Rylee Tomey at** [**rdt0029@auburn.edu**](mailto:rdt0029@auburn.edu) **or Lauren Wakefield (@@@@). For questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Auburn University Office of Research Compliance or the Institutional Review Board at (334) 844-5966, or via email at IRBadmin@auburn.edu or** [**IRBchair@auburn.edu**](mailto:IRBchair@auburn.edu)**.**