

STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT

Basham Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7800 • Fax: 517-373-9310
E-mail: senrbasham@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.mi.gov/basham



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sep 30, 2008

Contact: Sen Ray Basham
Phone: (517) 373-7800

Sen. Basham to Host Town Hall October 8th to Address Important Hunting Issues

Basham to be joined by state experts to discuss chronic wasting disease, bait feed bans and other concerns with local sportsmen

TAYLOR, Mich.—Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) announced today that he will be hosting a town hall meeting in Taylor on October 8, 2008, along with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to address the current issues hunters face this season, including concerns about chronic wasting disease and bait feed bans, the use of cross bows, and waterfowl surveys.

“Many of these issues are on people’s minds as hunting season approaches and I hope to help shed some light on any concerns and unanswered questions,” said Basham. “Hunting is an important addition to Michigan’s economy and a favorite pastime for many citizens. With the recent changes in rules and laws—and the discovery of chronic wasting disease in Michigan—it’s important we educate our hunters and make sure they are aware of any new concerns before heading to the woods.”

The town hall will be held from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8 at Gander Mountain at 14100 Pardee Road in Taylor. Sen. Basham will be joined by representatives from the DNR, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Michigan State University Extension to discuss the discovery of chronic wasting disease, ongoing efforts to test and monitor deer to determine whether the disease has spread, the related bait feed ban and other issues of concern to local hunters.

The DNR recently imposed a ban on the baiting and feeding of deer throughout the Lower Peninsula in response to the discovery of a captive deer with chronic wasting disease found in August in Kent County. It was the first time the neurological disease had showed up in Michigan. Chronic wasting disease can be transmitted between animals or from food contaminated by the saliva or feces of an infected deer. The agency hopes this action will help prevent the spread of the persistent, fatal disease to the state's large wild deer population.

###

