

November 2nd 2012

To whom it may concern

“*No Accident*,” authored by Darrel Rowledge, is a document in which I was privileged to participate both as a contributor and as an observer for over a quarter century. And I was but part of a large group of scientists and professionals, such as scholars in law, public health, medicine, veterinary science, zoology, wildlife management, economics, policy analysis, and elected members of parliament, aided as well by the participation of highly knowledgeable, practice orientated persons from the ranching, game farming and wildlife conservation communities. This is a work done to the highest standards of scholarship, by a person of exceptional abilities as a researcher, integrator and communicator. It is a work which deals with a story that needs to be told widely and which needs to be incorporated into general knowledge and legislation to protect the public good.

“*No Accident*” is more than the detailed story about a dreadful and utterly preventable wildlife disease, that is a worry to public health scholars as it has jumped species barriers, repeatedly, in the past. It is one example of a larger evil, namely, the light-hearted, uncritical domestication of wildlife that generates ultimately human diseases, let alone economic losses. There will always be gullible entrepreneurs that see how riches can be had from wildlife, and which will have excellent connections to politicians. The consequences of these invariably failed schemes have then to be born by the public. “*No Accident*” makes a compelling case for openness of process, accountability – political and financial - and the need for sound scholarship as an antidote to hype and boundless, irresponsible optimism.

This is a case history to be heeded.

I am in complete support of the proposed documentary.

Sincerely,



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