

MINNESOTA DEER HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

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BUILDING OUR HUNTING & CONSERVATION LEGACY THROUGH HABITAT, EDUCATION & ADVOCACY.

August 31, 2020

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen

Representative Rick Hansen

Chairs

Senate and House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committees

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Ingebrigtsen and Representative Hansen:

I appreciate the opportunity to present these brief comments on behalf of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA) to this joint committee meeting. I regret that I am unable to testify.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) continues to pose a grave threat to Minnesota's deer and deer hunting tradition, as well as the nearly \$1.0 billion economic impact that deer hunting contributes to Minnesota. We appreciate the actions the Legislature has previously taken to strengthen regulations on captive cervid farms. Among the positive measures enacted are the requirement of redundant gates on farms and the mandatory depopulation of all cervids on farms with a CWD-positive test. While these are positive steps, more changes are necessary.

The scope of the current rulemaking process underway at the Board of Animal Health will not address these important issues. Thus, it will be incumbent upon the Legislature to take on these matters when it is able. A good starting point would be to adopt the measures contained in HF 22, a bill that MDHA fully supports. Additional measures include, but are not limited to, requiring double fencing on cervid farms and enhanced restrictions on the movement of cervids.

MDHA appreciates the opportunity to present this testimony to the joint committees and looks forward to working with the Legislature in the future as it addresses these important issues.

Sincerely,



MDHA Executive Director