

MN Monster Buck Classic

Dillan R. Porter
1514 410th Ave
Karlstad, MN 56732

March 15, 2022

To whom it may concern:

In April of 2017 I started a sport show entertainment business and named it the MN Monster Buck Classic. I had worked on attracting vendors for almost a year, and it was difficult as I was starting a brand-new sport show. However, I was able to rely heavily on my dad's good name in this industry, as my dad, Steve Porter had been working in the sport show entertainment industry since 1996. Steve Porter and his live Trophy Whitetail Deer display consisted of bringing a custom-made trailer containing three live massive whitetail bucks to be put display at sport shows around the country. The live whitetail buck display was a huge attraction at sport shows and was known for drawing huge crowds. I was excited to build my sport show around my dad's live whitetail buck display. On January 12-14th, 2018, I had my first sport show in Perham MN. The live Whitetail Buck display was a huge attraction, and the show was a good success, as we had vendors attending the show who were promoting hunting, fishing, fishing resorts, and many other outdoor activities.

On January 18th-20th, 2019 I had the second annual MN Monster buck classic, also in Perham Minnesota. The whitetail buck display was a huge attraction. The attendees and the vendors had a good show. I had vendors tell me that they sold more product at this smaller show, then they do at the bigger and more experienced sport shows. I had a meeting with all of the vendors after the show, and after a good discussion, we decided that this show had what it took to continue to thrive. We collectively decided that the show should be moved from year to year around the upper Midwest, at a new location each year. This sport show movement would bring hunting and fishing goods and outfitters to a new audience each year. The vendors were all excited to sign up for the next years show, and we decided to have the show in Cambridge MN.

I planned my 3rd annual MN Monster Buck Classic for January 17-19, 2020 and it was held in Cambridge MN. I had been working on the detail for this show for a year. I had spent all of my advertising budget, invested heavily in my business, and was ready with a huge group of vendors to be present at the show.

The MN DNR illegally seized authority over domestic deer farm movement, and did a total statewide shut down of all domestic deer movement in the state. The MN DNR claimed to be fighting CWD and prevented my dad from conducting business and traveling with his live buck display to sport shows. My dad's farm was CWD free as proven by the fact that his farm was enrolled in a state mandated MN Board of Animal Health CWD monitoring Program. My dad's farm was also a "closed" herd, which means that he had not been importing new animals onto his farm for the past roughly twelve years. The MN DNR was hostile in their actions, and shut down all movement of farmed deer in the state and they did not care what businesses that they were harming.

The first MN DNR expedited emergency rule banning the movement of domestic farmed whitetail deer was published in the MN State Register on Monday 23 December 2019 on page 713. In this rule, the commissioner states:

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Commissioner's authority set forth in Minn. Stat. 97A.045, subd. 1(b) to control domestic animals that are posing a threat to wildlife, together with her authority in Minn. Stat. 97A.045, subd. 1(a) to do all things necessary to preserve, protect, and propagate desirable species of wild animals;....

Commissioner Sarah Strommen willfully leaves out part of statute 97A.045 Subd 1(b) which states that the domestic animals to be controlled by the commissioner must be “*..that are released, have escaped, or are otherwise running at large..*” Commissioner Strommen changes the intent of the statute by leaving out critical language. The MN Senate at this time acknowledges while in a video recorded hearing that the DNR was never given any authority over domestic deer that have not been “*.. released, have escaped, or are otherwise running at large..*” Steve Porter then wrote a letter of complaint against Commissioner Sarah Strommen, pointing out that she published a state record while using deceitful language in her Expedited Emergency Rule, an act which is also illegal.

When I had my 3rd annual sport show in Cambridge MN, and due to the DNR movement ban of farmed deer, I was unable to have the live whitetail buck display as the main attraction of my sport show. My show was a complete failure. I had a building full of vendors from all over the upper Midwest and Canada, and I had no entertainment. I had potential show attendees calling my cellphone to see if the bucks were actually on display, as they had all heard about the DNR deer movement ban. I would explain that the live bucks were not able to attend the event, and that we still had an awesome show. People continually told me that if the live bucks were not on display, that they would not be attending the show.

The MN Monster Buck Classic was completely ruined by the MN DNR 30 day movement ban. All of my vendors expressed frustration, stating that they had traveled long distances spending money on gas, hotel rooms, booth space, excess inventory, and that they would no longer be attending any of the shows that I put on in the future.

I had three years labor into the MN Monster Buck Classic, and it was destroyed by a hostile governmental overreach of the MN DNR. I cannot rebuild my business around the live whitetail buck display, as the MN DNR has done two additional movement bans, one for 30 days, and one for approximately 15 months. I cannot plan and advertise for a sport show when the DNR is stopping deer movement at any time or for any length of time. The movement bans by the DNR are illegal and my business is dead. This is a “regulatory taking” of my business.

I had projected about 5,000 paying adults to attend the show and to pay the \$12.00 fee to enter the show; therefore, earning my \$60,000 for my annual income. The fee that the vendors had paid me for booth space would cover my building rental, advertising costs, and other expenses. The gate fee would have been my profit for the year.

I had planned on running numerous sport shows around the upper Midwest as a lifelong career but cannot do that now with the DNR overreach. I think it would be reasonable to ask for ten years of payments at \$60,000 per year for the destruction of my business. I am seeking \$600,000 as a result of the damage to my business name, business reputation, and loss of income. When the MN DNR acts illegally in seizing authority over domestic animals, they need to be held accountable.

Thank you

Dillan Porter.