

May 10, 2022

Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Conference Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments on SF 4062, the Omnibus Environment, Natural Resources, and Tourism bill.

We wanted to highlight our concerns with provisions found in Article 3, Sec. 7 (page R110, lines 98.19-98.24) of the House language, which would require the owner of a premises where chronic wasting disease (CWD) is detected to test the soil for evidence of CWD prior to the sale or transfer of the premises.

At the February 14, 2022, House Agriculture Finance Committee hearing on HF 2814, which contains this soil testing provision, the committee heard testimony indicating that testing soil for CWD is “extremely problematic.” Requiring inconsistent or unreliable soil testing prior to the sale or transfer of property could interfere with the property owner’s fundamental property right of disposition.

We respectfully ask that this provision not be included in any final conference committee agreement and encourage collaboration with all stakeholders regarding how best to ensure current and future owners understand the requirements associated with detection of CWD on a farmed Cervidae premises, while also avoiding the creation of impractical or unnecessary barriers associated with the sale or transfer of property.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments.

Sincerely,



Matt Spellman
Director, Governmental Affairs
Minnesota Realtors®