

Dear Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee:

The Bluffland Whitetails Association is an organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and promoting a healthy wild Whitetail Deer population in Southeast Minnesota. Our members include a wide array of hunters, farmers, landowners, and conservationists who seek to accomplish this mission through sound science and smart management principals. We offer testimony today in hopes that your committee can make progress in this area.

If you haven't already received it, a letter from the CWD Action Coalition will soon be available for your perusal. It is abundantly clear that cervid farming is a major CWD transmission vector. We (along with our partner organizations) feel that the continued presence of cervid farms poses a clear danger to Minnesota's wild deer. We urge you to act on the resolution that has been submitted.

We also understand that while the legislature is not in session, immediate action is unlikely. But we hope that the first order of business in a future regular or special session includes meaningful action on cervid farming. We worry that the current "co-management" of cervid farms will be only marginally (at best) effective at ensuring sound oversight of the cervid farms. An immediate moratorium on new farms would be the best first step in a brighter future for our wild Whitetail herd.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your service to the great state of Minnesota. Thank you for your time and service.

/s/ John Zanmiller

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