

Minnesota Deer Farmers Association

Re: HF 911

Chair Vang and House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee members,

I am writing you on behalf of the MDFA (Minnesota Deer Farmers Association) as our association President. The Minnesota Deer Farmers are greatly concerned about several of the provisions in HF 911. There is no current, identifiable rationale for increasing the Board of Animal Health to 11 members. We believe that having this many board members will cause conflict and confusion. It will also likely result in difficulty achieving consensus in situations where time is of the essence. Also, in the animal health industry, it is critical that members have an animal health background, such as experience as a veterinarian or a producer. Raising animals is how we make a living, put food on our tables and put our kids through college. Leaving oversight in the hands of those who are politically appointed, and not expert in the areas of livestock and veterinary science, gives us great concern. If we have an animal health issue in our state, we need people on the board with experience, and practical understanding of animal health. This experience is vital to our family farms.

Thank you

Scott Fier

MDFA President