



March 24, 2025

Co-Chair Paul H. Anderson  
Co-Chair Rick Hansen  
House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee  
Centennial Office Bldg  
658 Cedar St  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Co-Chairs Anderson and Hansen, and members of the committee,

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) appreciates the opportunity to share written testimony on behalf of our 31,000 family farm and ranch members. Thank you for the chance to submit brief comments in support of Representative Burkel's HF 40 and 1676, both regarding Cervidae farms.

HF 40 seeks to remove the "physical contact" requirement for Cervidae farms, which farmers have generally viewed as a mandate requiring double-fencing. Many farms have struggled to meet this requirement, especially as fencing costs continue to rise. For some, the financial burden could threaten their ability to stay in business. Cervidae farmers have a strong interest in preventing the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD), as their livelihoods depend on controlling it. Removing this onerous requirement and working collaboratively with Cervidae farmers to develop alternative disease prevention methods would result in greater progress and higher compliance.

MFBF also supports eliminating the requirement for disclosure on a property title/deed if CWD has been found on a property, which HF 1676 would accomplish. After having a herd depopulated, a Cervidae farmer may decide to exit the industry and sell their property. A CWD disclosure could significantly reduce property values, even if the risk is minimal. CWD does not pose a known direct threat to humans or livestock, and the extent to which CWD prions persist in the soil and environment remains an area of ongoing research. Disclosure may not accurately reflect the true level of risk, yet the stigma surrounding CWD could discourage potential buyers. This leaves landowners with limited options for selling their property.

Again, thank you for allowing MFBF to comment on HF 40 and 1676. We thank the Committee for hearing these bills and ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Dan Glessing, President  
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation

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