

HF 3903

3/15/22

Dear Chair Sundin and Members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this issue. We would like to express our support for Bill HF 3903. Last fall was a stressful time for us in the farming business. Last October an out of state deer farm had a positive CWD test in their herd. The MN DNR put a movement ban on farmed whitetail deer within and into the state of MN for 18 months because of the positive farm. This meant that we could not conduct business on a normal basis. We could not purchase livestock. We could not sell livestock. How can a farmer conduct business when you can't sell your crops? We're still working on our damages from this intrusion, but we estimate tens of thousands. This ban was placed AFTER the MN Board of Animal Health was finished conducting their investigation. The MN DNR had no interest in cooperating with the MN BOAH to learn how to properly trace animals. It took months for the MN DNR to accomplish what the MN BOAH was able to accomplish in less than a day. There was no need to impose a movement ban on all the clean and healthy deer herds in MN. Again, we support Bill HF 3903.

Thank you,

Steve and Melissa Uchytel

Crow River Whitetails