

February 16, 2021

Minnesota Deer farmers Assn.

President Rich Meech

Representative Mike Sundin

Chair House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee

Re: HF 138

Representative Sundin and Committee members,

The Minnesota Deer Farmers Association is very concerned about the changes which are proposed to Minnesota statute 35.01, Sub. 1 in HF 138.

The changes proposed in HF 138 would require one member of the Board Of Animal Health to be from a federally recognized tribe located in Minnesota. Traditionally, and statutorily, BAH Board members have been Livestock producers or practicing Veterinarians. This has worked very well in the past and has provided a qualified pool from which Board members have been selected. Requiring one of the Board members to be of a certain race or ethnicity is concerning if there are no qualified candidates available from that required race or ethnicity. Seeking qualified candidates that also happen to be a tribal member without mandating this in statute makes a lot more sense, and gives increased flexibility in the selection process. In our opinion, the proposed changes are not needed and place unnecessary requirements when selecting the most qualified Board members available.

Sincerely,
Rich Meech
President, Minnesota Deer Farmers Association