

January 17, 2023

Representative John Burkel
309 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Burkel,

The North Red River Chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association requests your continued support of legislation to permanently enact law to allow portable deer stands to be left overnight on Wildlife Management Area (WMA) lands for deer hunting.

As you are aware Minnesota had a pilot project which allowed portable stands for use of hunting deer on WMA's which ended when legislation was not passed to support permanent enactment. During the pilot program Minnesota Conservation Officers found compliance with the drafted provisions and acceptance by the public hunting state lands.

Proposed legislation would allow those deer hunting on WMAs to place a stand on a WMA and for it to be left to allow safe hunting versus having to erect and then remove a stand from state lands each and every day hunting.

Your interest in supporting the tradition of deer hunting and use of public lands is appreciated.

Kelly Turgeon, President
North Red River Chapter
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association

Representative Burkel,

We are writing this note in regards to the Bill allowing the portable deer stand to be left overnight in Wildlife Management Areas. MDHA supports this bill. We feel it is a safety issue for the hunter to be erecting his/her stand in the dark and taking it down in the dark; this is even more of a concern with the aging hunter population. The Bill would also promote more use of public land.

The pilot program was very successful with no issues.

We are asking for your support on this Bill.

Thank You,

Stu Weston

Region 1 Director of the MDHA