

HF 3903

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Ref: STRESS

Dear MN State Representatives,

I would like for you to please be aware of this urgent situation.

I started raising whitetail deer in 1996. I had a fun and profitable family farm. I sold whitetail deer, had a successful deer scent company, I was president of the MN Deer Breeders Association and board member for six years and I really enjoyed helping my fellow deer farmers.

My deer farm, and all the deer farms in MN have been under constant legislative attack by the MN DNR and Rep. Rick Hansen. The goal of these people is to increase farm operating costs thru excessive legislation and at the same time, to legislate away a farmer's ability to earn an income. I am fully aware that legislatively increasing my expense and crippling my income would run me out of business. I am also aware that many of our states Senators and Representatives are unaware of the false narrative being outlined by Rep. Rick Hansen, as they vote to destroy the family deer farms. With many counties banning the use of deer urine that put an end of our deer scent business.

Then on Oct 11, 2021 the DNR placed a stop movement order on farmed white-tailed deer using their Expedited Emergency rulemaking authority. All intrastate movement of white-tailed deer was effective immediately and not expiring until April 11, 2023!! Having a market in MN for our bucks was nice, but now no whitetails could be shipped. What would be the future of our business? As a result, I shot and butchered my last deer on December 28, 2021 and I am officially out of business.

The state of MN at one time had close to 700 family whitetail deer farms. Today there are less than 150 deer farms.

I had been very well connected to the deer farm industry in MN, and I know and communicate with many farmers yet to this day. I am extremely concerned about the stress that I hear in their voices. The legislative assault on these farmers has caused many of them, including myself, to shoot their animals. Can you personally imagine what it was like for me to shoot my

tame breeder does that I raised and loved?? I have total contempt for the people that forced me to take these actions.

The remaining deer farmers in MN are struggling to pay their loans, expenses, and are having their ability to make a living taken away thru DNR overreach and excessive legislation. T Should these farmers follow my lead and shoot all their deer? If they shoot all their deer, then they are not eligible for the state buyout that MDHA Craig Engwall is pushing for. If they don't shoot all of their deer, they then will have huge feed bills and operating costs, and next fall when it is time to sell their deer...the DNR will pull another stunt and do a complete shut down of all deer movement, preventing sales and much needed stress relieving income. What should these remaining farmers do? Shoot their animals like I did, and like many other farmers have done, or not shoot their animals? This is an awful predicament that our elected officials have put on MN farmers. We followed all the rules but we still could not move deer.

I am seriously concerned. I have felt a need to share this information. You need to please treat this situation with compassion and urgency, as some farmers are only holding on by a thread and are stressfully waiting on the hope of help for loss of money during the stop Movement order by the Commissioner. Or a proper state buyout of the deer farm industry.

Sincerely,

Dennis Udovic