



March 4, 2024

The Honorable Rick Hanse, Chair
House Environment and Natural Resources
407 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Josh Heintzeman, Republican Lead
House Environment and Natural Resources
375 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Hospitality Minnesota Support for HF 3376 Image Permission of Game and Fish Licenses

Dear Chair Hansen, Lead Heintzeman, and Members of the Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on HF 3376 and address the benefits this legislation provides for Minnesota's hospitality industry. Hospitality Minnesota is the trade organization for Minnesota's restaurants and foodservice, hotels and lodging, and resorts and campground sectors. We believe this bill will benefit the hospitality industry by promoting and encouraging opportunities for residents and tourists alike to explore our state's great outdoors and utilize our resources.

We are excited that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is moving toward an online purchasing system in the next few years for ease of customer use. In the meantime, a practice solution for anglers and hunters in Minnesota is to take a photo of their license to provide to enforcement officers. While photo versions are often accepted by the DNR, the law does not explicitly give officers permission to accept a photo as sufficient proof of license. This bill is a positive change for everyone participating in hunting and angling in Minnesota.

As you may be aware, Minnesota issues over 1 million fishing licenses and over 500,000 hunting licenses annually. Many license holders are guests of our resorts, lodges, and campgrounds in all corners of the state. Our abundant natural resources draw hundreds of thousands of visitors which helps drive hospitality and tourism revenue. These sheer numbers alone demonstrate how popular hunting and fishing is across the state, and this legislation will go a long way toward promoting and encouraging folks to continue participating in the great outdoors.

We respectfully ask that you support HF 3366. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Director of Government Relations, Jill Sims at jill@hospitalitymn.com.

Sincerely,

Angie Whitcomb
President & CEO
Hospitality Minnesota

Jill Sims
Director of Government Relations
Hospitality Minnesota