

Jim Simonson Testimony on SF 3854

Hello,

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in support of bill 3854.

I have been raising deer since 1998. I have for the last 2 years let the Sustainable Safari petting zoo in the twin cities borrow fawns for education and display.

I took 4 fawns (1 male and 3 females) there in late May of 2022. The fawns were seen by 1000's of people and were a main attraction of kids at the zoo. The fawns were supposed to come home later in the summer but due to the movement ban, they were not allowed to leave. I had numerous conversations with Bob Meier (DNR) to allow them to come home. Every time my request was DENIED. The problem with the whole thing is that by the time they were allowed to move home the fawns were used to 70 degree temps and had no winter hair coat. Two or three of them had respiratory issues develop as they were INSIDE for too long and were never allowed outside in the sunlight.

What is worse, all 4 have passed away after weeks of medications and care . These 4 fawns were out of my best 2 two does and prized buck and were picked to be shown because of that. I wanted them raised to be calm because they were going to be a mainstay in my herd. The movement ban not only denied me to bring them home at the proper time, but it resulted in their DEATH.

There was NO OTHER DEER in the zoo besides these 4. They were from my herd and they WERE GOING BACK TO MY HERD. They were not a CWD risk!

Thank You,

Jim Simonson