Scott Salonek – SF 3854 Testimony

The constant attack from MN DNR and certain legislators on the farmed cervid industry in this state is laying an extreme difficulty on the industry to be able to pay bills and keep the farms alive. To add measures from the DNR in last falls perfectly timed movement ban caused extreme difficulty for some cervid farms to move animals in state, which do not have an ability to move out state. I say perfectly timed because there was clearly no science behind this stop movement, no communication with the board of animal health on their reason for the ban,. Just simply put, it was decided this would cancel any revenue that farms would obtain by selling their deer at the beginning of the harvest season. The same effect that cancelling a MN deer hunting season would have on hunting license sales.

 I have been a small cervid producer in this state since 1992, the stop movement has for the first time in 30 years completely canceled more than 90% of all revenue for me for 2021. I had 3 mature whitetail bucks sold to a MN harvest facility the middle of October that would have generated just under $11,000.00.

Certainly pocket change to the MN DNR or MN legislators trying to destroy this industry, but the difference for me needing to dig elsewhere to feed my animals. Because of this stop movement 2 of the 3 whitetail bucks died fighting between fences by getting hung up in the fence. I was able to save the third buck by cutting the antlers off his head, thus rendering him not market able for another year. This movement ban caused me the exact outcome MN DNR put the ban in place for, financial difficulty and stress, $6700 in livestock and another $500 to feed the buck I now need to hopefully hold over another year.

I understand $7200 is not a huge amount of money, but I would ask anyone in the hearing today if they would take $7200 out of your pocket and BURN IT! Because that is what this movement ban did to my operation.

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