

Steve Porter's Trophy Whitetail

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REF: Financial Loss due to DNR movement bans:

To whom it may concern:

My family owned and family built whitetail deer farm is turning 30 years old this spring. We love our farm and our family business.

Our farm has been under non-stop legislative attack by Rep. Rick Hansen and a few others for the last few years. They claim that their goal is to just simply stop CWD. This is a lie. When a disease breaks out in livestock, it is common practice to quarantine the infected farms, and the farms that have had immediate contact with the infected farm. In the case of CWD, the MN DNR does a complete shut down of all the farms in MN. In the history of fighting any disease, there has never been a complete and total shut down of all the healthy farms. Healthy farms have always been allowed to move animals toward slaughter. Could you imagine when the TB outbreak occurred in cattle in Northwest MN, if they would have tried to shut down all cattle sales across the entire state? The MN DNR and Rick Hansen have willfully done everything they can to destroy our businesses, they work together to increase our operating cost thru nonscientific and foolish legislation, and then they legislate away our ability to earn an income. Meanwhile, they jest in the news that they would support an industry buyout. My family farm is destroyed beyond repair. My 30-year-old successful clean farm has received a death by a thousand cuts, at the hands and leadership of State Rep. Rick Hansen.

When I drive six hours to testify and defend the truth concerning CWD at the capitol, Rick Hansen and his gang get 45 minutes to lie, and I get two minutes.

My stress is through the roof. When should I start shooting my animals and dragging them into a pit??? Rick Hansen, will you come and assist in shooting and burying my clean healthy animals? You can bring MDHA Craig Engwall to help... They have promised us a proper industry buyout, but I hear nothing. I cannot afford feed for my animals, and I am pissed. I have worked 30 years in law enforcement, and I could never understand the devastation that I had to witness. I get it now. Push, push, lie, lie, and never let up, Rick Hansen you are an evil man.

1. First DNR movement ban:

a) I was forced to break a \$9,500 appearance contract with an out of state sport show. I also lost out on an estimated \$60,000 in present or in the near future lost revenue from the sales of whitetail breeding stock, sales of doe urine, sales of preserve hunts, and sales of antlers and other retail products. Total loss of revenue from this sport show is \$69,500.

b) I was forced to break a \$7,500 appearance contract with the MN Monster Buck Classic. I also lost out on an estimated \$45,000 in present or in the near future lost revenue from the sales of whitetail breeding stock, sales of doe urine, sales of preserve hunts, and sales of antlers and retail other products. Total loss of revenue from this sport show is \$52,500.

c) I received a citation for attending the Minnesota Sportsmen's Show and violating the DNR movement ban. The MN Senate later acknowledged in a Senate hearing that the MN DNR was never

given authority to manage domestic whitetail deer. I spent \$3,500 on attorney fees. I had my business reputation smeared and damaged in newspapers, radio, and television across the state and even into neighboring states. The financial damage to my business reputation is huge and unknown at this time.

2. The second DNR movement ban: This movement ban occurred at a time of year that I normally do not participate in sport show business. However, it made me reluctant to seek now contracts.

3. The third DNR movement ban:

a) I was forced to break an appearance contract on a one-day event in Spicer MN in the amount of \$1,750. I also lost out on an estimated \$25,000 in present and in the near future lost revenue from the sales of whitetail breeding stock, sales of doe urine, sales of preserve hunts, and sales of antlers and other retail products. Total loss of revenue from this sport show is \$26,750.

b) I was forced to break an appearance contract on a one-day event in Maple Lake MN in the amount of \$1,750. I also lost out on an estimated \$25,000 in present and in the near future lost revenue from the sales of whitetail breeding stock, sales of doe urine, sales of preserve hunts, and sales of antlers and other retail products. Total loss of revenue from this sport show is \$26,750.

The actual and calculated financial damage for the three DNR movement bans from actual booked shows is \$179,000; however, this does not include financial losses from no appearance contracts in place with existing sport show customers, due to fear of additional MN DNR movement bans. During the three years of DNR movement bans, I could have booked an extra ten to fifteen shows per year. My entertainment business is also now dead, what are the future earnings worth? My son Brody was going to run this business as a lifelong career.

While working for 30 years in Law Enforcement, I always believed that when a person was being robbed and assaulted, that they could always call 911 and that help would arrive. Now, when I am being robbed and assaulted by the MN DNR and a few misleading and persuasive Democrats, do I have a 911 number to call? I am calling on the MN Senate to do the right thing and hear my cries for help. I am asking that MN DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen be removed from her position immediately. Commissioner Strommen has led the charge in the destruction of Minnesota family farms, she has presented false information in official documents, and she continues to endorse licensed game wardens to enter private farms without a search warrant and without consent; therefore, violating both the Minnesota and U.S. Constitutions, and at the same time violating her oath of office to uphold the constitution. When I am writing this letter, I believe that I am calling 911, please respond accordingly. I can be contacted at 1-218-526-0180.

Thank you,

Steve Porter