



March 28, 2022

*Sent via Email

The Honorable Senator Kiffmeyer, Chair
State Government Finance and Policy and Elections Committee
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3103
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Concerns with SF2767 – repeal of shotgun zone

Dear Chair Kiffmeyer and Members of the Committee:

Olmsted County recently became aware of provisions in [SF2767](#) that would repeal the shotgun zone and therefore expand rifle use statewide for the taking of big game, such as deer. The county is unclear why this change is needed and is concerned about safety given the terrain and population density in our county.

Olmsted County has many suburban residential developments, hobby farms, and cities that contain or adjoin woodlands and farm fields that are likely places for hunting and other game. With the very long trajectory for rifle shots we believe that change in hunting zones will place people at risk of injury or death.

It has been stated that counties would be free to enact their own ordinances that would reduce this risk. However, it is not in the State or the DNR's interest to have a patchwork of ordinances and regulations across the state.

We respectfully ask that more public input be gathered and discussed before a potential change is brought forward. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Thein".

Mark Thein, Chair
Olmsted County Board of Commissioners
thein.mark@co.olmsted.mn.us

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin E. Torgerson".

Kevin E. Torgerson
Olmsted County Sheriff
torgerson.kevin@co.olmsted.mn.us

CC:

Senator Carla Nelson
Senator David Senjem
Senator Carrie Ruud