

As a longtime member and chapter officer of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, and member of Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, I am writing in support of SF 107 "Shotgun zone for taking deer elimination and firearm and ammunition type used for taking deer regulated by the county provision".

My reasons for supporting this bill are as follows:

1: Rifle bullets are safer than shotgun slugs. They do not ricochet nearly as often or as unpredictably as shotgun slugs, especially in the bluffs of southeast Minnesota. I've hunted the bluffs here for nearly 30 years, and have heard an unbelievable amount of shotgun slugs bouncing unpredictably off trees. For the last few years, I've been hunting with a rifle-caliber pistol, and have NEVER heard one of those bullets ricochet through the hills, and neither have the people I've been hunting with.

2: Rifles have considerably less recoil than shotguns, which makes it easier for everyone to target practice, and thus be more accurate. For the same reason, it is easier for smaller framed people (especially kids) to hunt with a rifle compared to a shotgun. One of the biggest struggles with hunting is getting new people into the sport, and some of that is because of how hard it is for kids to handle a large shotgun.

3: Rifle ammo is less expensive than most shotgun slugs. That again ties in with making it easier to target practice, and be more accurate because of it. That leads to safer hunters as a whole.

4: The entire reason the shotgun zone was put in place was to make it harder to harvest deer, thus raising the population. Much of the shotgun zone is at a 3 or 5 deer limit, as well as part of the CWD areas, indicating a need to lower the population.

Thank you,
Marshal Fitch
President - Bluff Country Chapter MDHA
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