

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to Section 13 of SF2077.

Regarding Section 13: Shotgun Zone Modifications.

Allowing rifles in southern Minnesota poses significant safety risks. As a resident of rural McLeod County, I am deeply concerned about the potential danger of stray bullets to my family and community. My property, especially my husband's parents' farm where our one-year-old daughter is cared for while we work, would be at risk from high-powered rifles, which have ranges over five times further than modern slug guns. The open landscape in our area, and much of the lower half of the state, offers little to no barriers to prevent accidents.

While the provision allows counties to opt into shotgun zones, it raises enforcement issues. Who will be responsible for this—state or county authorities? The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), funded by taxpayers and sportspeople, should handle such matters, not the counties.

It is disheartening to see these proposals arise in Congress rather than through the DNR, whose role is to manage our natural resources.

Unfortunately, I could not testify in person due to the late agenda announcement. Thank you for your consideration.

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