

Midwest Big Game Hunters

Attn: Senate Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy
Re: S.F. 2077 Section 12 {Extension of Authority to Use Crossbow}
S.F. 2077 Section 13 {Shotgun Zone Modifications}
Date: 4/8/25
Position: Oppose Certain Aspects of Each

Dear Chair Hawj and Honorable Committee Members,

We write to provide additional data that may be useful for further discussion.

Section 12: We are not seeing that full crossbow inclusion into archery seasons produces ANY of the long term desired hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation results. It does appear to be a very good regulation change for significantly increasing crossbow sales, but what we primarily find in data from the other Midwest States is a continued downward trend in the number of individual hunters and a significant shift towards archery season crossbow use due to the long season and ease of use. We would like to see crossbows operate under a separate license with a delayed start date. Allowing the use of crossbows during the entire archery season is far from the biggest or lowest hole in the bucket of R3.

Section 13: Our primary concern is that the MN county map does not align with the deer permit area map. If all counties vote to be included in the rifle zone, that is a nonissue. We do expect to see an increase in deer harvest with rifles, but it is also worth mentioning that rifle caliber pistols are already in common use within the southern shotgun zone. SW MN is also incredibly flat and treeless.

We would also like to see Minnesota start tracking and reporting on the number of individual deer hunters, average hunter experience rating by permit area, and days hunted by weapon type. This is data that we find in other Midwest States harvest reports, and it would be beneficial for evaluating the impacts of natural events and management actions.

Sincerely,



President - Midwest Big Game Hunters

MN Youth Data

		Youth Firearm License Sales	Youth Archery License Sales	Total Youth License Sales	Percent Change
	2013	64748	12212	76960	
	2014	62488	11965	74453	-3.37%
	2015	62333	11905	74238	-0.29%
	2016	61138	10846	71984	-3.13%
	2017	58779	9961	68740	-4.72%
	2018	56989	9052	66041	-4.09%
Youth MEA Firearm Season	2019	57575	8267	65842	-0.30%
	2020	58601	9312	67913	3.05%
	2021	57320	8667	65987	-2.92%
	2022	56752	8306	65058	-1.43%
Temp Crossbow Inclusion	2023	54147	9466	63613	-2.27%
	2024	54599	9884	64483	1.35%

Total Youth License Sales vs. Year

