

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express opposition to Section 12 and 13 of SF2077.

**Concerning section 12, Extension of Authority to use Crossbow:** Although I am happy to see only a one year extension, I would still ask that you consider removing section 12 from the Omnibus bill altogether and let crossbow inclusion expire. Archery season is a tradition worth preserving. Modern crossbows are a much different weapon than a traditional bow and arrow or even a compound bow. Archery is a skill that requires much patience and dedication, folks work on becoming proficient with archery equipment year round. Including crossbows in the archery season takes away from the original purpose of having an archery season in the first place. The archery season is much longer than the firearm season due to the difficulty that hunting with archery equipment poses. This includes drawing the bow in the presence of an animal, holding back weight once the bow is drawn, waiting for a good shot, and ultimately executing a good shot while under stress and excitement. Modern crossbows can be set on a tripod, cocked, aimed and fired accurately at distances much greater than a bow and arrow.. This is more similar to a firearm than a bow. Ravin, one of the leading manufacturers of crossbows even points to this in their marketing. One ad reads: "Your next rifle" alongside a picture of their crossbow. Another more recent ad depicts a "hunt ready, accurate to 135 yards" crossbow. This simply is not archery. I have submitted each of you letters to your senate emails over the past few weeks detailing other determinants that allowing full inclusion of crossbows will have on the archery season.

**Concerning section 13 Shotgun Zone Modifications:** Allowing rifles in the southern half of the state is simply not a safe proposition in most areas. I live on the edge of town in rural Mcleod county. Allowing rifles would turn my property from a safe haven to being in the crosshairs during the firearm season. The issue gets much worse when I travel one mile south of my property to my parents farm. This is where my young daughter spends her weekdays. It is surrounded by lowlands and open ag fields. Absolutely great hunting land! Not so great when your daughter is playing outside surrounded by folks with long range rifles shooting at running deer. I am an avid hunter but safety needs to come first. The modern slug gun is accurate to 200 yards and will not travel very far after that. The modern rifle can be accurate to 1000 yards and beyond. In this part of the state there are not many obstacles to stop a stray bullet from a high powered rifle.

I understand the bill includes a provision for allowing counties to opt in to the shotgun zone, however, this does raise the question of enforcement. Who is responsible if a county elects to remain in the shotgun zone state or county? A great deal of money is paid into the DNR by sportsmen and women, as well as taxpayers, for enforcing the game and fish laws. This should not fall on the county.

All in all it is very disheartening to see bills like this being brought about in congress instead of coming from the DNR. Isn't it the DNR's job to manage our natural resources? As an avid hunter I talk to a large number of other hunters from my area and across the state. Both sections 12 and 13 have strong opposition from hunters. Both of these provisions will fundamentally impact deer hunting in Minnesota. Please exclude both of these sections from your omnibus bill.

I would have been there to testify in person with other hunters, however due to the late agenda announcement there was not enough time to plan around work.

Thank you,

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