Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee

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Topic: House Bills 5740 & 5902

May 18, 2022

Chair Howell and Committee members,

My wife Ellen and I are hunters, are 65 and older, own private land that we hunt on as well as hunt on public land, are constituents of Representative Eisen and oppose both HB 5740 as well as 5902.

HB 5740, offers anyone 65 and older who purchases the appropriate license, a hunting opportunity most other hunters could not utilize and most important, use equipment on their private land, in a hunting season limited to conventional bows and crossbows.

With the special early hunting seasons in September (Youth and Hunters with Disabilities, Early Antlerless Firearm on private land in all mainland Lower Peninsula Deer Management Units) and a special Independence Firearm Hunt in October (on private land or public land requiring an access permit), we and many others feel what HB 5740 is offering, is not needed as well as possibly being a safety issue or creating a negative experience for those hunting with archery equipment on adjacent private property.

HB 5902, while seeming innocent enough, has no scientific reasoning or proof to apply this legislation in opposition to rules which Michigan's Natural Resource Commission have regulated against Deer or Elk baiting in hunting season, by utilizing sound scientific management, particularly in light of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

For these reasons as mentioned in the beginning of this letter, my wife and I oppose both pieces of legislation to be brought before your committee.

Respectfully,

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