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Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Pluecker and esteemed members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry committee thank you for hearing my testimony today. First, I want to highlight that I am the reason you are hearing this bill, as written, here today. You see, I purchased a CLGSA permit last year with the hopes of someday operating one of these facilities. I am sure the department has their own version of what happened, and they can share it with you- but I am going to share it from my view. Originally, I asked if it was possible to buy the permit and the land and build a facility. The department told me yes, that was alright as long as I had an address to attach the permit to. When it came time to for me to renew the license, they had new legal guidance that what they had told me was wrong, that I needed to have an inspectable fence, which I did not have. So they suggested that just to appease the law, I attach my permit to one of the fenced areas at my friends farm. I re-applied and was again denied because at that location it was too close to another permit. Keep in mind, I was making no physical changes to the facility, it would operate just as it had- I was only trying to keep possession of the permit I paid \$30,000 for. To summarize, so I can talk about what I want to talk about, the department moved the goal post a number of times, ultimately making it impossible for me to retain the permit resulting in a financial loss of \$30,000. Now, instead of fixing those issues that stopped me from keeping my permit, they want to give the commissioner a veto over permit sales. That is not an appropriate solution to the problem.

What is an appropriate solution is the amendment before you, to create a stakeholder group to address the outdated and arbitrary nature of CLGSA regulations. When this program was originally regulated it was designed to kill the program over time, a slow death of regulatory hoops for permit holders to jump through with the stated end goal of not having these facilities anymore. I am asking you to change that today. I am asking you to change the attitude of loathing this program, to one of promoting it. You see, these facilities, other than the means of harvesting their livestock, are just farms. They are farms that allow a heightened level of involvement by their customer. They allow customers to come to the facility, choose the animal to harvest, see the process the entire way through from field to fork. Everyone doesn't have the ability to successfully deer hunt, or bear hunt. Or maybe they do, but it does not provide enough meat for them. Take me for example, I harvested a Red Stag this fall to supplement the meat I got from 2 whitetail, a bear and half of a Moose. It sounds like a lot, but I eat about 2lbs of game meat a day so it goes quickly. These programs allow folks to be as close to their farmed food as possible and they need to be protected and promoted. Please, allow the permit holders a venue with the department to make long-needed changes to this program for the betterment of the farmers and farmed animals. I would happily answer any questions you may have.

# **Resolve: To Create A Stakeholder Group With the Goal of Modernizing the Commercial Large Game Shooting Area Program**

**Goal:** For stakeholders to collaborate and find solutions to modernize and update the statute related to the Commercial Large Game Shooting Area program. Including, but not limited to;

- Importation Requirements
- Species allowed to be imported
- Species allowed to be owned/sold
- Administrative needs around the CWD monitoring program
- Financial needs around the CWD monitoring program
- Streamlining permit attainment/management
- Facility inspection requirements
- Any other areas of statute or rule that are identified during stakeholder engagement

**Makeup/voting members:**

- All permit holders or their representatives
- 3 relevant staff members of the Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry to be appointed by the Director
- A Republican and a Democrat on the ACF committee to be appointed by the chair
- A staff member from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to be appointed by the Director of IFW
- A member of the public with expertise and experience in farming, animal welfare and hunting
- A representative from one or more national advocacy organizations who purpose is to cervid farms, such as the North American Elk Breeders Association

**Result:** This stakeholder group shall report a bill to be considered during the 2026 short-session of the 132<sup>nd</sup> legislature. The bill may address statute and rule changes, all aspects of the bill will receive majority approval from the stakeholder group.