

Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

I am requesting a DO NOT PASS on SB 2168. I strongly disapprove of the consequences of SB 2168. By imposing a restriction on hunting within 440 yards of any structure, occupied or otherwise, it creates a number of complications.

1. This rule imposes a restriction that would have a direct impact on private property rights. For example, I own 40 acres in Stutsman County. I have two shelter belts that I frequently hunt deer, squirrel and rabbit. In the past I have also placed traps and snares on my property. On the north edge of my property, the adjacent property owner has unoccupied structures (mobile storage containers, pole barns, and miscellaneous sheds) that exist within the 440 yard distance described in this bill. If this bill is enacted, I would no longer be able to hunt or pursue game animals on my own property without obtaining permission from the adjacent landowner.
2. The description "unoccupied structure" could be anything from an old abandoned school house, a dilapidated pole barn, even an outhouse. These structures exist all over the countryside, on both private and public property. This bill would create a substantial burden to hunters, and in some instances prohibit hunting on portions of public property.
3. This bill would create a significant burden for law enforcement.

Please vote DO NOT PASS on SB 2168.

Thank you,

Kerry Whipp