



RESOLUTION 2016-01

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE EXPANDED USE OF CROSSBOWS IN MINNESOTA'S ARCHERY SEASON

WHEREAS, Minnesota law currently allows for the use of crossbows during the archery season by special permit for persons permanently or temporarily disabled, a provision that Minnesota Bowhunters, Inc. (MBI) fully supports; and

WHEREAS, current Minnesota law also allows crossbows to be used by persons age 60 years or older that have a regular archery license, and by all licensed hunters during the regular firearms seasons for deer, bear, and turkey; and

WHEREAS, hunter satisfaction with the number of deer seen on stand has reached lows not seen in decades; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's deer management program is currently being audited by the Office of the Legislative Auditor; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has yet to draft a written plan on how to manage deer in the state; and

WHEREAS, expanding the use of crossbows in the archery season would be premature to the findings of the audit and the drafting of the state's deer management plan; and

WHEREAS, some organizations believe that allowing crossbows in Minnesota's archery season will result in an increase in hunter recruitment - particularly persons that may not have the strength to draw a traditional or compound bow, a claim that is misguided since this issue was addressed by legislative action in 2007 that reduced the minimum draw weight from 40 to 30 pounds, making it easier to draw a bow and still retain the necessary energy to effectively harvest deer; and

WHEREAS, crossbows would remove the challenging heritage of bowhunting in Minnesota, which because of this difficulty, warranted a longer season; and

WHEREAS, a crossbow is similar in characteristics, and how it's used when hunting, to a gun and should be limited to firearms season or warrant development of a separately managed and monitored crossbow season, with the length of the season determined based on the difficulty of the hunter to harvest their game; and



WHEREAS, the crossbow manufacturers are the only group desiring the expansion of crossbow use in the archery season and, barring any group desiring the change, additional opportunities are not needed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of Minnesota Bowhunters, Inc. that Minnesota Bowhunters, Inc., a Minnesota 501C-3 corporation, opposes the expansion of crossbow use in the Minnesota archery season from what is currently allowed in state law and urges the Minnesota Legislature to not allow additional provisions in state law that would expand crossbow use in Minnesota's archery season.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MINNESOTA BOWHUNTERS, INC. THIS 9TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016.

Brooks Johnson, President

ATTEST:

Matt Johnson, Vice President