

From: mariegadotti
To: [Exhibits HNR](#)
Subject: HB 3227
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 8:11:47 PM

House Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Marie Gadotti and my husband and I farm in Columbia County. We ask that you support HB 3227. We have had to quit farming fertile fields great for growing crops due to the large number and aggressive elk herds that moved into the area. We had used everything at our disposal including landowner preference and damage tags. However, that was not enough. We moved our combine (to harvest our wheat crop) into the field one August evening to start harvesting the next morning. We knew the elk had been in the field throughout the summer but we hoped the damage was minimal. When we went up the next afternoon to start combining the elk herd had surrounded the combine and were wandering in the field as we drove in. Once harvest began it became apparent that a lot of the wheat had been flattened due to the elk bedding down. There were too many trails throughout the field to count. We had invested many hours preparing the field, invested money in seed, fertilizer and pesticides and patrolled the field on a regular basis, which was a 10mile round trip from October to August and ended up with only a partial crop. This was not enough money to cover expenses and this was the final straw, we quit farming in the area. The landowner also has lost revenue from no longer being able to rent their property.

We realize that HB 3227 is a pilot program and only will be available in a small number of counties, however, **more needs to be done to help agriculture producers to protect their crops from elk damage. ODF&W needs to have the ability to give more tools to help landowners.**

Sincerely,

Marie & Joe Gadotti