



18 December 2024

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
C/O jason.abraham@state.mn.us
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul MN 55155

Re: Update for electronic license system modernization

Dear Mr. Abraham:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Department's proposed update for electronic license system modernization.

We understand a modern Department of Natural Resources electronic licensing system (ELS) is currently under development and will launch on March of 2025 and that as such, changes are needed to align administrative rule with statutory changes made in 2024 in support of the new ELS. The rule changes will support improvements to the customer's experience when purchasing a hunting or fishing license. Many other states have moved toward electronic licensing available through mobile devices and SCI commends the Department on their proposed changes that will greatly benefit hunters and anglers. In addition to providing licensing flexibility for hunters and anglers, there could be some long-term cost savings by reducing mailing or printing costs, funds that could otherwise go to furthering conservation.

SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, is necessary to the long-term health of wildlife. Hunters have long paid the way for conservation, both game and non-game wildlife, and maximizing opportunity for hunting is also key to long-term funding for all conservation. In short, hunting benefits wildlife conservation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed update for electronic license system modernization. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and we appreciate the continued partnership with the Department. SCI is always First for Hunters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Laird Hamberlin".

W. Laird Hamberlin
Chief Executive Officer
Safari Club International