

LOCALNEWS

Sen. Bakk and Rep. Dill charmed by hunter’s story

Handwritten plea by 84-year-old hunter results in bill

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Behind a bill to add a scant three lines to Minnesota’s hunting laws is a story of an aging man. George Krog served in the military, first in Cuba and then in the Philippines. He made a career out of working with steel, retired, paid his taxes and bought a deer hunting license every year. Now 84, Krog is afraid he won’t get a shot at a buck again. So in a handwritten letter to one of the most powerful people in Minnesota politics, he made his pitch for some help for himself and others in his shoes.

“In my younger days I could sit almost all day long, now I can sit maybe two hours,” Krog wrote. “The windfalls are higher and the hills are steeper.” The Legislature gets consumed by big numbers — a \$40 billion budget, millions of dollars in new spending and tax cuts for hundreds of thousands of residents—but the story of one man in the twilight of his life who just wants to bag another deer has resonated with lawmakers. Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk is pushing to allow residents 84 and older to take a doe without a special



Sen. Tom Bakk



Rep. David Dill

permit — just as Krog asked. Though the change would open doors for other elderly hunters too, Bakk and others are giddy about helping one 84-year-old man from Two Harbors. “Maybe 200 people take advantage of this,” said Rep. David Dill, a Crane Lake Democrat pushing the bill in the House on Krog’s behalf. “Maybe 2,000, maybe it’s 5,000 — I really don’t care.

This is something that every legislator in their term ... has the opportunity to do: to help somebody.” Krog didn’t know his request had caught on until he was reached by phone this week at his home. “Well that’s good. I’m 84,” he said with a laugh after Bakk’s bill was read to him. Krog has grabbed his rifle again and again every year he wasn’t serving in the military. But bucks aren’t coming around Two Harbors anymore, he said. He hasn’t shot one in years, and didn’t even get one in his scope this fall — only does. After a heart attack two years ago, Krog scaled back his hunting. But he’s not ready to pack it in yet, so he wrote a letter. “I can still do it,” he said

proudly. “There’s going to come a time when I can’t. I just don’t want to sit in this rocking chair and think, ‘Why didn’t I do it when I could?’” Krog’s request for a doe permit was turned away last fall — the Department of Natural Resources limits how many doe permits it hands out in order to protect the deer population. After asking “the head honchos” in Two Harbors if they could help, he wrote a letter to his state senator: Bakk, a Cook Democrat. Bakk and Dill are committed to giving Krog (and the 2,200-some registered hunters 84 and older like him, according to the DNR) a chance at getting another deer. Asked whether the DNR may raise a stink about de-

pleting the doe population, Bakk gave a wry smile and a two-word reply: “Doesn’t matter.” Paul Telander from the DNR said the department hasn’t yet taken a position on the bill. Krog’s efforts already paid a small dividend this fall. After getting wind of Krog’s request for a special doe permit, the local game warden showed up at his door with a buck for him to skin. Big one, Krog said. Sixteen-pointer. But if Bakk’s bill passes, he’s set on bringing his own deer home next year. “On opening morning, I’ll have a deer,” he said. “I know exactly where they are and where they go. I’ve learned that from the old-timers. Now I’m the old timer.”

Better Business Bureau releases final statistics for 2014

Complaint numbers hold steady for the year

BBB STAFF REPORT

Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota has compiled lists of the Top Ten industries for consumer complaints and inquiries, according to their final statistics for 2014. These numbers are for complaints and inquiries from consumers in Minnesota and North Dakota regarding businesses which are headquartered in the region. The local BBB set a new record in 2014 by pro-

viding more than four million BBB Business Reviews to the public, up from nearly three million in 2013. BBB received nearly 24,000 complaints in 2014, down just slightly from the previous year. Complaints are generally handled by BBBs where companies are headquartered, so some of those complaints were transferred to different BBBs nationwide. Of the complaints BBB of Minnesota and North Dakota handled to closure, roughly 90 percent of them were closed as resolved. “Our complaint levels have remained remarkably steady for the last few years,” said Dana Badge-

row, president and CEO of the BBB of Minnesota and North Dakota. “While we’re pleased to see that number staying in check, our goal, as always, is to see complaint numbers decrease.” Complaints against auto dealers/new cars and auto dealers/used cars took the top two slots last year, though complaint totals for both categories were down from the previous year. Property management companies rounded out the top three industries for complaints, possibly reflecting a trend where more people are choosing to rent rather than buy a home. Collection agencies once again topped the list of

industries with the most inquiries from the public in 2014, with general contractors coming in second. Trade industries claimed five spots on this year’s BBB top ten inquiry list. Internet shopping and auto dealers/used cars were also represented. BBB’s statistics for 2014 are as follows: **Top Ten industries by volume of complaints** 1. Auto Dealers – New 2. Auto Dealers – Used 3. Property Management 4. Auto Repair and Services 5. Banks 6. Rubbish and Garbage Removal 7. Newspapers 8. Contractors – General

9. Roofing Contractors 10. Furniture – Retail **Top Ten industries by consumer inquiries:** 1. Collection Agencies 2. Contractors — General 3. Construction and Remodeling Services 4. Roofing Contractors 5. Auto Dealers — Used 6. Checks — Printing 7. Internet Shopping 8. Property Management 9. Plumbers 10. Home Builders “Contractors are often featured prominently on our Top Ten inquiry list,” added Badgerow. “The fact that collection agencies were once again the most inquired-about industry last year may indicate the

effects of The Great Recession are still being felt.” For the latest consumer news, fraud alerts and free BBB Business Reviews, visit bbb.org. The mission of Better Business Bureau is to be the leader in building marketplace trust by promoting, through self-regulation, the highest standards of business ethics and conduct, and to instill confidence in responsible businesses through programs of education and action that inform, assist and protect the general public. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact BBB at bbb.org or 651-699-1111, toll-free at 1-800-646-6222.

Happy VALENTINE'S DAY

From the JUG

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