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COUNTY OF
Northern Lights

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September 20, 2021

11.01.20

Alberta Elk Commission
#101 5904 50th Street
Leduc AB T9E 0R6

Attention: John Cameron, Chair

Re: Request for Letter of Support for the Legalization of Harvest preserves

Your letter dated August 27, 2021 requesting a letter of support for the legalization of harvest preserves was received and discussed by the Council for the County of Northern Lights at their regular meeting of September 14, 2021.

The Council is **opposed** to the request for legalization of harvesting preserves in Alberta. We agree with the concerns put forward by the Alberta Fish and Game Association and the belief that game ranching is in conflict with the conservation of Alberta's wild cervid populations, and support the call for a phase-out and elimination of all game ranches in the province. The Alberta Fish and Game Association has stated that "*the introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) to Alberta was the direct result of the initiation of game ranching in the early 1990's. Game ranching also results in the spread of other diseases, invasive species, genetic contamination, disruption of wildlife movements and habitat fragmentation.*" Allowing for this type of hunting may be the first step to allowing paid access to hunting on all private lands in the province and is in direct conflict with the efforts of conservation groups and ethical hunters. Hunting within fenced areas most certainly is not the type of hunting supported by most wild game hunters, or for the general public.

We are therefore stating our opposition to any changes to the *Livestock Industry Diversification Act* and associated *Domestic Cervid Industry Regulation*.

Sincerely,

Terry Ungarian, Reeve

cc: Premier Jason Kenney
Honorable Jason Nixon, Environment & Parks
Honorable Devin Dreeshen, Agriculture and Forestry
Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Alberta Fish & Game Association