

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
HOUSE BILL 1134
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE
COMMITTEE
JANUARY 19, 2023**

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resource Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. Since 1935, we have advocated for the conservation of wildlife, habitat and access for North Dakota's hunters, anglers, and other outdoor users. I'm here today representing our 1,500 members in 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's clubs across North Dakota that make up the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

NDWF opposes HB 1134. The North Dakota Wildlife Federation has had a long history of opposing additional hunting licenses, expanded seasons or less restricted licenses for non-resident hunters. An increase in liberal and favorable non-resident hunting privileges lessen the opportunity for North Dakota's resident hunters. HB 1134, is the newest iteration of past bills that seek to reward a specific sub-set of the population for their civic duty work with resident rates to hunt and fish the public's fish and game.

License fees paid by hunters and anglers (and trappers and boaters, as well) combined with federal excise taxes disbursed to states, account for almost all the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's budget. Giving reduced rates to specific adult user groups sets a dangerous precedent and could hamstring the Department's funding source long term.

In addition, NDWF believes that season setting, license allocation, and bag limits should be based on scientific wildlife management by the Game and Fish Department - in this case, what the habitat and population numbers can support. NDWF has a major concern around the language defining "Out-of-state guard member." To allow current and former members these license rates create an administrative nightmare for the Department and a potential ever-growing group of non-residents who can "double dip" by receiving resident rates in multiple states.

We request a Do Not Pass vote on HB 1134. Thank you and I would stand for any questions that the Committee may have.