

RE: HB 1151

Dear Energy and Natural Resource Committee,

This letter is to express my support for HB 1151.

I will not take up much of your time. I just wanted to take a moment to express my opinion and support for being able to bait big game for the purpose of hunting in North Dakota. I am an avid hunter and outdoorsman, I have 4 children that enjoy the outdoors as much as myself. When baiting restrictions were put into place in my area of northern ND a few years back, my children started to lose their interest in bowhunting. They were accustomed to going out and sitting in the blind or stand and seeing a wide variety of wildlife coming into the small 5-10 gallon bait pile that I would place out for the purpose of hunting. The squirrels, pheasants, rabbits, and numerous other types of wildlife would provide entertainment and help sustain interest in the outdoors for my kids as they wait for a deer to possibly come in. Unfortunately, now I have 2 children that do not wish to bow hunt anymore as it is boring to them without the wildlife activity that they were used to seeing at the bait pile. We all know we live in a world of expected instant gratification as anything our young hunters need to know is at the touch of a button. Hunting over bait provided this need our youth desired. If we do not assist in keeping our youth interested in hunting and enjoying the outdoors, what does the future of hunting look like?

Building our youth hunters interest in North Dakota's outdoors and hunting heritage along with increasing the odds of a clean/ethical shot at harvesting big game are just a couple benefits that hunting over bait provide. In my honest opinion, just these few benefits greatly outweigh the unproven science and the "possibility" that banning hunting big game over bait in North Dakota will slow the spread of CWD. CWD has been around for 100's of years. Our deer herd will continue to flourish and thrive for 100's more even with a bucket of corn on the ground.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Handeland
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