

Good Day,

I'm a longtime resident of North Dakota and have hunted here most of my life since I can remember. Today is a big day in the world of big game hunting because what is done here in North Dakota could set precedence everywhere in North America. The issue for CWD has been an issue for over 50 years. I remember doing a speech in 1987, 1988 in High School over this issue. I used articles from Outdoor Life, Field and Stream, and a couple other national magazines. From what the Game and Fish have done or not done from 50-30 years ago is nothing. The only things that has change are scare tactics calling this disease Zombie Disease to scare people into their agenda.

This disease is a money grab for the Game and Fish not sure where the Government funding goes but what they get from the Government could not be all spent on CWD study because if it was there would probably be an idea of what this disease really does. The Game and Fish says the deer will die from this disease but don't all animals die eventually, they say they will die a slow painful death but how do they know that when there has not been alive deer to test and monitor what happens to them. It is all a guess no science behind what they say, they say herds will be whipped out non have due to this disease the only herds being whipped are the ones that DNR have done to try rid the disease which has not worked. The forty some odd deer they killed back a few years ago near Williston found zero positives what good did that do nothing but take out 100 deer from our herds. Because many were pregnant does. The only thing done is test already dead animals from car accidents, hunting or other causes of death none have been found alive and then tested. They post pictures of mostly the same deer over and over and over again on the internet saying this is CWD which is probably EHD which is another issue. The DNR has no scientific evidence to support that hunting over food stops or slows the spread of CWD, they have no scientific evidence that herds are whipped out from this disease. Wouldn't you think that there would be more to testing this disease to find out more information from us hunters. Like when a deer head is turned in a questionnaire that would go along with the head or animal carcass like how was the animal acting, the shape of the animal, was it alone, was it near water, was it doing animal things, etc. Then when the results are out wouldn't it be good to know the age of the deer, the heath of the deer was it pregnant, etc. There is so much to know.

I believe this disease is to prevent game farms mostly but honestly the game farms are going to be the ones that will save the herd because they are the ones doing the most research on this disease. I believe that is where the funding should go is to people that are doing real research on this disease not where only testing is going on. Plus the DNR is the only tester of these animals. Shouldn't we have an independent company testing these animals has a community of sportsmen I don't believe a lot of what the DNR tells us. I would think after 50 yrs of finding this disease there would or should by now have an idea of what can slow or even stop the spread of this disease but we are still doing the same stuff that hasn't stopped or slowed the spread of this disease isn't that call insanity doing the same stuff over and over again with the same or no results.

So now I will support the issue for legalizing baiting or feeding of animals. I hunted over bait for about 12-15 years before the DNR changed the issues of feeding big game animals in certain areas of our state. I killed only 1 deer because I hunt a specific animal and stick to it. Now I have taken youth hunters out and have gotten many of them their first deer with a bow and now those kids are dedicated outdoorsmen and spend lots of money on the outdoors. To me this is the biggest issue growing our youth in the outdoors numbers are dropping with our youth in the outdoors due to mostly not having success in the outdoors. Feeding animals helps with the success especially where I hunt the prairies of North Dakota where animals really don't have a trail/place they go everyday like in wooded areas or thick cover where a trail or pattern is formed to set up on. The placing of feed is great to get animals to get a routine a place to go to with regularity. This keeps the youth involved when seeing animals in natural habitat and to get that close to them to hear them breathe, eat, and interact with each other a lot is learned. Like respect and patience. The feeding of deer also helps to determine health, age and populations of animals in your area to help with herd reduction and keeping a healthy herd. I know this works because before the hit of EHD I had animals in my area recover faster from the rut and the end of winter they were happy well feed so there was less stress on them. The bucks carried their head gear till the end of May and even into June I seen some of my best deer with their head gear late into the spring. I also had most of the doe have twins and even had 2 does that had triplets this to me is a good indicator of the health and no stress on the animals.

I would also want to talk about the ethics of feeding big game animals I do believe the Native Americas also fed animals to help their success rate so when people talk about ethics and that it isn't right because of ethics they can't tell me that hunting over food is not ethical. Hunting over food has been done since the beginning of time I have seen articles of Native Americans using corn to take turkeys using leaves and corn. They would cover themselves in leaves and have another Native American spread corn over the leaves then call the turkeys in and the turkeys would then walk on the leaves and the Native American would grab the turkey by their feet. If ethics is an issue then everyone needs to carve their own long bows, shape and cut their own arrows, chip their own hunting heads, and weaver their own bow string. Never use a gun again with a long range scope, use a range finder, use a bullet that is manufactured, etc. Hunting over food is almost the most humane way of taking an animal because they are relaxed can give you a better kill area for taking the animal clean and fast so animal doesn't need to suffer. "ethics"

The so called baiting of animals and not being able to hunt over food seems to me only singles out the hunters.

Baiting/feeding of animals still can be done just can't hunt over feed right there that is saying can't hunt over bait singles out hunters. Seems to me if you want to stop or slow the spread all feeding of animals should be done but that is only if the science says it, there hasn't been proof that feeding animals speeds up the spread. I don't know the numbers of people that feed deer for hunting purposes or the numbers of people that just feed deer but I'm thinking there are more animals then people feeding animals that lick, rub, smell, ect what animals do to communicate with each other than feeding will ever due. Also how many carcasses are left in an area the animals walk by and smell, predators eat and then leave their excrements for animals to smell, lick, eat causing spread. If the DNR truly want to slow the spread then there shouldn't be any remains of the animal taken left in the field and the DNR should have a place to dropped off and burned. I bet there is also more animal carcasses left in the field then there are food piles for hunting purposes in a given area.

These are just a couple reasons of many that hunting over food should be legal as an American it should be my right to choose on my land to have healthy strong no stress animals that love to live there. If you don't want to hunt over food that is your choice I won't tell you that is right or wrong it is your tag and money spent to hunt how and what you want. Also it really isn't fair for some areas that can hunt over food and others close to the area can't animals don't know they can't cross a border to eat because some animal in there herd that test positive caused a border. Plus that positive animal is gone from the area so might not be anymore animals that would test positive. Age is also an issue with this disease the older deer they say test more positive then young animals well of coarse just like humans the older we get the more sick we get no different in animal world.

Plus in North Dakota the average deer killed is like 2.5 – 3.5 yrs old are those the animals testing positive or if you get lucky and shoot a mature animal more likely to test positive we don't know.

To me when animal test positive in an area there should be a study not just shut down or ban stuff there should be at least a ten year study of the area then that would give you a better idea of numbers age health all that to make a scientific plan to slow Or prevent the spread. I have read a lot about this disease and have found minerals that can be fed to animals that help slow or even stop the spread of CWD why aren't these issues being talked about there is so much out there that independent studies have found to help and a lot as to do with feeding animals that help.

In closing I hope that bill passes because it will help not hurt our animal herds and the economics of our communities and help getting more people into the outdoors. I feel a lot of people that don't support this bill don't read/study this issue and truly don't know what the DNR is pushing for their agenda to us hunters. They have singled us out on this ban without the science. So please vote yes to support all animals and outdoors people.

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