

Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HB1151.

My position on baiting is neutral, and I believe it should be a hunter's choice on whether they want to utilize this method of hunting.

My concern with the ban on baiting is that the science just doesn't add up. In the 10+ years of CWD testing in the state, there have been zero deer that have been found dead where CWD has been determined to be the actual cause of death. The deer that have tested positive have either been hunter killed, or found dead, but the cause of death was unknown.

In 2020 and 2021, EHD ravaged hunting units in the Western part of the state, including the deer unit where my family farm is located, 3F2. The deer population in areas was reduced to a mere fragment of what it was before the disease hit, yet ND Game and Fish issued more deer tags for the 2022 season in the name of population decreases for CWD. The department failed the hunters in the state by doing this in my opinion. For the first time in my 38 years of rifle and archery hunting, our family did not fill one deer tag this past season.

The current baiting restrictions are only imposed on hunters, but anyone can bait or feed deer for any other reason-365 days a year. It just doesn't make sense to me.

Sincerely,

Jason Zins