

My name is Bryan Backer, owner/operator of Gone Fishin' Taxidermy. I am writing to express my opposition to HB 1151.

North Dakota is currently experiencing low numbers due to EHD and drought to name a few root causes. CWD has minimal effect on deer.

Baiting deer allows hunters to ethically harvest animals, which keeps the herds strong and has downstream effects including patronizing butcher shops and taxidermists as well as ensuring healthy animals can reproduce and ultimately build stronger generations.

In addition, when hunting with a muzzle loader or bow, it is difficult to achieve a range close enough to the animal to make an accurate enough shot to harvest the animal as humanely as possible. Baiting makes this possible.

Furthermore, farmers or other landowners can "feed" deer during the winter, conditioning the animal to keep returning to a particular area. There is no difference between this and baiting deer for hunting purposes.

In summary, baiting deer affects one's ability to humanely harvest an animal as well being able to contribute to healthy commerce within a community.

Please take my brief comments into consideration and do not pass HB 1151.