

I support HB-1151

Hunting is an enormous portion of who I am and this is due to the RELATIONSHIPS that hunting fosters. Relationships with God, nature, wildlife, and people. The outdoor time that creates a tranquility and appreciation for what God has created to the time that the hunting process sets aside for me to relish in my family and friends.

I hunt because I value the tradition and it feeds my soul as well as my family and friends with the healthiest protein the land has to offer. I like contributing to conservation and management and making sure the deer have everything they need to be healthy. I appreciate what it takes to have the ideal habitat for wildlife and I feel it is my duty to take part in conservation. I enjoy the adventure and challenge of contributing to habitat and the physical, emotional, and mental tests hunting, conservation, and management challenges me with.

Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution states: All individuals are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty: acquiring, possessing and protecting property and reputation: pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness: and to keep and bear arms for the defense of their person, family, property, and the state, and for **lawful hunting**, recreational, and other lawful purposes, **which shall not be infringed**.

The CWD false hysteria is infringing on my lawful right to hunt in North Dakota. The restriction of baiting, is decreasing my opportunity to provide clean harvests. My children are being denied prime opportunities due to the restriction of not being able to have bait at the forefront of a hunt. My mobility challenged father-in-law is being restricted and this breaks my heart.

I am on the prairie for my profession and spend hours a day watching wildlife. EHD hit me hard to the soul to see, smell and witness the death of so many deer. The death and suffering was torture. In my area, 95% of the whitetail deer died from EHD yet we are placed in a CWD Baiting Ban unit because of a "case" within 25 miles of my unit.

When questioning what is the conservation and management plan for EHD, the response was one of low priority and proceeded with, "They will bounce back". In adverse commentary, the response to maybe one deer, in 20 years, of dying from CWD, has been complete hysteria and money mongering.

Because of the soul shaking event of EHD devastation, and the newly imposed baiting ban, I began researching CWD. Once you train yourself to get away from Google and seek uncensored resources, the current, on the ground, live research and experiences are abundant.

Over \$100 Million has been spent on CWD and recently another \$420 million was Federally approved. This for a toxicity that is on the landscape, in the soil, and has been for decades. The current average national prevalence rate is 1% positivity: Hardly a lethal percentage.

25% of the wild whitetail deer have CWD resistant genes and this is due to the natural survival mechanisms of our wildlife. CWD is NOT always fatal. Privately funded research has demonstrated this statement and continues to foster healthy deer.

I am out on the land for the majority of the day and I am not going to do something to the land, wildlife and area that would harm. I am not seeing deer being taken by CWD and at the same time, I KNOW there are procedures, we as stewards, can do to enhance the deer environment, habitat and health: Supplemental feeding being one.

The inability to bait, or supply supplements, has crushed the Hunter. What is the management plan when there is not longer the Hunter to aid in conservation and management all because of a false hysteria and big money?

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