

I am providing testimony in opposition of HB 1151.

I've lived in North Dakota my entire life (36 years old) and have hunted and fished here for the past 30 years. I have also hunted in over 7 different western states for big game and I can tell you from experience, the North Dakota game and fish department is one of the best there is in this country. I truly believe that our G&F department has done a superb job over the years. They are professional, highly educated, experienced, and very willing to hear out public input and do what's best for the resource.

This bill is extremely concerning to me on many fronts. This type of legislative over reach is dangerous to the NDGF and their ability to manage the resources that we have in this great state while also being able to protect against wildlife diseases and threats.

CWD is a major threat to deer, elk, and even moose populations and is expanding throughout the U.S. People that have spent hours upon hours and years upon years studying and furthering their education becoming professionals in wildlife biology are showing us the data. In my opinion there should be a statewide ban on baiting not only due to cwd but also to ethics and fair chase of the resource. The current path we are on is not sustainable. Extremely high success rates due to long range rifles, advanced archery equipment, technology, hunters ability to spend more time in the field/spend more money towards equipment etc., 4 month seasons going well into post rut/winter, and the list goes on. Baiting not only increases CWD threats but is not fair chase.

I'm asking you to please allow the Game and Fish Department of North Dakota to continue to be able to manage the wildlife and wildlife diseases of this great state now and for the future generations. Please vote NO on HB 1151 for the future of this great state.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to testify on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Blake Amon