

Members of the Committee,

I am providing testimony in opposition of H.B. 1151. While I have no views on whether baiting is ethical or not, I do hold strong views on science-based decisions and common sense. What HB1151 has introduced is not legislation based on years of scientific data, it's based off of short-sided emotions. By overriding the wildlife management plans that Game & Fish has in place, you would be also introducing a dangerous precedent that multiple states have already negatively experienced.

Based off of the discussions since the bill was introduced, I see a majority of people would want this bill enacted because it best suits their style of hunting. In my opinion, the focus should be shifted to the resource. The scientific consensus is that congregating animals, in any fashion, is a good way to laterally transmit disease. We all know that deer are a social creature and we obviously can't stop them from their natural tendencies. But why is it so difficult to stop the one factor, the human factor, which could contribute to the spread of CWD?

As Representatives of the state, you are also the trustees of a public resource. Your responsibilities in managing that public resource are to take into account the best available data, not the loudest emotional response. Deer do not know the physical boundaries of property lines. Therefore, we can say this effects all people who take joy in seeing deer, whether they are hunters or wildlife viewers. Your decision today has the potential to damage a public resource for years to come. As stewards of this unique public trust, you need to realize that "It's not ours, it's just our turn".

I'll leave you with a quote from Theodore Roosevelt. *"Defenders of the short-sighted men who in greed and selfishness will, if permitted, rob our country of half its charm by their reckless extermination of all useful and beautiful wild things sometimes seek to champion them by saying the 'game belongs to the people'. So it does; and not merely to the people now alive, but to the unborn people. The 'greatest good for the greatest number' applies to the number within the womb of time, compared to which those now alive form but an insignificant fraction. Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of those unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wild life and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose, and method."*

I implore you, Do Not Pass for HB 1151.

Very respectfully,

Liam Hale

Minot, ND