

H.B. # 1151 – 2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the House National Resources Committee. My name is Larry Schneider, I reside in Bismarck. I own and rent 1400 acres of hunting land in Deer Unit #1, also known as the Turtle Mountains. My land is dedicated solely for wildlife production. I don't allow any livestock on my property. To the best of my knowledge Chronic Wasting Disease has not spread to our area. The main reason our whitetail deer herds stay healthy and continue to grow in population is due to habitat and the feeding programs that have been implementing since 1976. Prior to 1976, there were very few whitetail deer in our area. As you are aware, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department banned the feeding program in 2022, which is a huge mistake in my opinion. Because of the harsh winter conditions this year, I believe we will lose at least 50 percent of our deer herd due to the lack of an adequate food supply.

As a landowner who has hunted every deer season since 1956, (65 years) I ask that you approve this bill.

In closing, I would like to ask the committee if we are having such a problem with deer dying from this disease, why does the Game and Fish Department keep increasing the amount of deer licenses issued each year. For example, in 2016 there were 49,000 licenses issued and in 2021 there were 72,000 licenses issued.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members, if there are any questions, I will be happy to try to answer them.