

Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

As a hunter and resident of North Dakota I support HB1151. I have been baiting and hunting on my property north of Fargo for 15 years. I use trail cameras at my feeder and along the edge of the farmers field. I see more deer herding in the field due to accidental spillage of corn and soy beans than I have at my spinning corn feeder. I had a co-worker last fall that was having a tough time filling his bow tag. He had a friend that had corn piled on the ground because it didn't all fit in his bins. He was able to harvest a doe in December. That was legal because it a natural farming practice.

I don't like that CWD is near zone 2B and potentially killing deer but banning hunters from baiting will not control the spread of CWD due to the agriculture practices in our area of the country. I also know many farmers that feed deer during hard winters what is preventing those practices from happening. I do not want to see North Dakota turn in to another Minnesota where they have a baiting ban on the entire state. I see it going in that direction unless this bill is passed. I have seen and heard the opposition that by passing this bill it will prevent the game and fish from managing the deer population. It will be very difficult to prevent deer from naturally herding or moving to food sources due to the agricultural and ranching practices in North Dakota. Please support HB1151.

Thank you for your time.

Chris Mack