

To: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee & all members voting on this bill

RE: HB-1151

Date: 3/14/2023

Dear Members:

I'll try not to be long-winded, and I won't dazzle you with scientific words and mumbo-jumbo like some "professionals" have. What I will say is that in the **56 years** since CWD was first identified in Colorado, and if it is a disease that could or would or will in fact decimate entire statewide populations of deer, elk, moose, etc..., I would sure hope the most knowledgeable and brilliant scientists and game biologists and veterinarians in these states with infections, much less across this entire country, would surely have developed a better plan of attack than "banning baiting" to deal with the problem by now. I'm sure 56 years ago this disease wasn't mysteriously released from a lab in Wuhan China to kill all our beloved game animals. My point is that CWD was identified 56 years ago, but how long has CWD been around before it was identified? **Is it possible that it's been around for as long as the animals it affects? Yet, there's still deer, elk, moose and caribou around and in huntable populations! Maybe I'm missing something, but I really find it impossible to believe CWD dropped out of the sky in 1967!**

I was a resident of the great state of North Dakota for 23 years and still have ties to the state. I hunted and fished like most of you all do and I loved every minute of it. I did bait both deer and walleyes with sometimes better success than others and passed on a love for the outdoors to my son who is now an adult and continues to live and hunt in ND when he has the time to do so. What I learned in my 23 years of being a resident and outdoorsman in North Dakota is that much more than half of the voting aged population of people in the state are just chock full of common sense, and the huge majority of outdoorsman there are even more sensible and would never intentionally cut off their noses to spite their faces. Meaning, if we believed we were jeopardizing the future of the game animals we love to hunt, this bill would never even have been written because it would have no support. However, when the people I know from good old North Dakota see something that looks like dog poop and smells like dog poop, you can bet it's dog poop! And that's the essence of the Game and Fish's ban on baiting, for only hunting, when everyone can see just how hypocritical it is that there's food plots, silage piles, yarding by the hundreds during a winter like this one, feeding to feed but not to hunt, etc...

Vote "YES" For this bill and go back to the way things were. Don't take power from one government entity only to place it with another. Make life simple on yourselves by slightly modifying the current bill to show a date range of "August 1st to the last day of archery season" and redact any language regarding quantity or volume of bait. It sounds like a compromise that will cause major headaches and who's going to police it?

Sincerely, Dan Owens

Introduced by

Representatives Thomas, Cory, Grueneich, Heinert, D. Ruby, M. Ruby, Tveit

Senators Elkin, Hogue, Meyer, Patten, Vedaa

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 20.1-05 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to baiting big game animals and supplemental feed attractants.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 20.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Baiting big game animals for hunting.**

7 1. The department may not issue rules or adopt a policy or practice prohibiting the baiting
8 of big game animals for lawful hunting on private property. A person may not provide
9 supplemental feed attractants for the purpose of baiting and hunting big game animals
10 except during the period from August first to the last day of archery season. For
11 purposes of this section, "supplemental feed attractants" include grain, seed, minerals,
12 salt, fruit, vegetables, nuts, hay, and any naturally derived scent or lure, including urine,
13 or natural or manufactured food.

14 2. The [REDACTED] supplemental feed attractants provided to big game animals which may
15 be provided from August first through the last day of archery season may not:

16 a. [REDACTED]
17 Be placed within one hundred fifty feet [45.72meters] of any property line, unless
18 permitted by the adjacent landowner with written permission.

19 3. A person is not subject to criminal liability under this section if the person is engaged
20 in:

- 21 a. Normal agricultural practices.
- 22 b. The normal feeding of livestock.
- 23 c. The cultivation of lawns, gardens, or wildlife food plots or orchards.

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Legislative Assembly

- 1 d. The practice of wildlife management activities conducted by or under the
- 2 direction of the game and fish department.
- 3 e. The feeding of wildlife in an elevated bird feeder within one hundred feet
- 4 [30.48 meters] of an occupied residence.