

RE. HB 1151

Members of the committee I am asking you for a do pass on house bill 1151 .

This is a disease that is now pushing 40 years old and yet we still maintain a great deer herd in North Dakota . Nobody is taking away from the fact that it is still a disease. The question you might ask yourself is what has the game and fish department done with 20 years of testing and obviously restrictions?

A new press release dated March 13, 2023 from the game and fish department confirms 24 cases found in the state last year. Of those 24 cases 23 were mule deer 22 of which were hunter harvested one was killed by a vehicle And the remaining one was a white tail. Mule deer are not an animal that generally tends to go to a bait pile anyway so explain the science to me again?

So with 20 years of testing and starting to place restrictions on, how has the game and fish department moved forward in a positive direction to combat this? The answer would be zero. The science is not there to fit their narrative so now were hoping to divide sportsman on an ethics issue? My point being in 20 years, we shouldve been able to gain ground in some shape or form, but that has not seemed to happen. Are you going to wait for the doctor to give you a 20 year prognosis or are you going to find another doctor?

This very subject was brought up to the North Dakota legislature in 2007 and 2009 in which the legislature spoke. The only avenue that the game and fish department had left was to be able to control means of take. This is not about science anymore or being open minded. This is about power. Private land owners rights are at stake. 90% of the state is privately owned. With that being said, I know quite a few large landowners that let people hunt but the gates will be closed because theyre tired of the overreach and the adverse effect to that is way more people on public land which is 10% of the state.

The other question I have is why is it that private entities that are self funded finding results and our game and fish department is not? What is our taxpayer money being used for? They continue to go off of other peoples information and what they say goes! In which believe me a lot of the research on that side tends to be an agenda driven! Follow the money follow the funding thats all thats going on at this point.

Believe me, Ive looked at this from both sides, and this is not an agenda driven issue for myself. If I believed that there was something that was going to decimate the deer herd in North Dakota Id be all on board for it. In this case I believe there is nothing. This is an ethics issue that got

turned into a disease issue, plain and simple.

In closing, I would love to see your support for House bill 1151.

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Feel free to call with any questions comments or concerns 701-389-8429