

Deer Energy and Natural Resource Committee

This letter is to express my support for HB 1151

My name is Chandler Jacob and I am a avid outdoorsman from Minot, ND. I began hunting with my father when I was 4-5 years old. When I was 7 years old I harvested my first deer with archery equipment which happened to be over food. Having the ability to supplemental feed allowed me to first, have a bunch of action but most importantly allowed for a controlled shot which is very important for a young hunter. Ever since that day I have been obsessed with archery hunting. Having the ability to go out as a young kid and see a few deer and be successful made me want to keep hunting. I fear opportunity for young kids, and the awesome people of prairie grit are at an extreme disadvantage with the baiting ban. Using supplemental feeding is a great way to get young kids in the outdoors and experience success which is the way I was introduced to archery hunting whitetails as a young kid.

Since the ban my father and I have started using food plots to hunt deer. The plots consist of different grains and a few types of greens that the deer love in the early season. That food attracts deer the same exact way a food pile does. Heck if you have the ability to plant one big enough it often attracts more deer. This is where I struggle with the ban, why can I plant food but not put some out on the ground. They both are used in the same way. If I were to drive east of Minot I could find a corn field with over 200 deer in it. It feels as if each year we are stripped of more and more rights. Deer naturally are social animals from the moment they are born.

In my opinion from simply spending countless years in the outdoors and specifically hunting whitetails the science simply does not add up. In my 20 plus years of hunting I have yet to find a dead deer or see one showing symptoms of CWD. The science does not show that baiting increases the chance of CWD. If that was the case, you would be finding more ill deer and we just don't see it. I feel if a certain group wants to use feed they should be allowed to do so. If another group does not, then that's your choice. I do not think hunters should be criticizing and picking and choosing how one group does or doesn't hunt, we are all hunters. I believe most people who oppose baiting are not against it due to science, but because they simply don't like baiting. A few years back baiting was in the legislation and The game and fish tried to ban it. The people of ND spoke, and it never passed. Now years later they are using CWD as a way ban it and claiming the science backs it up, When you get into the numbers it does not add up.

Sincerely, Chandler Jacob