

RE: HB1151

Senate Natural Resources Committee

House Bill 1151, regarding using bait when deer hunting and the control/regulation thereof, should not be passed. The bill, as written and amended, does not allow the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to regulate a method of hunting that has the potential to spread disease throughout North Dakota's entire deer herd, as well as elk and moose populations.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department was developed to manage methods of taking game (i.e., no shining of animals at night, draw weights of hunting bows, no pursuit of animals with motor vehicles)—as well as taking care of our birds and animals by monitoring populations for disease and sustained longevity—through biological science, not hearsay.

While champions of the bill would tell you that it encourages young people to become hunters, my belief is the opposite. Hunting becomes shooting; when the sacrifice is minimal, the prize is devalued and interest wanes with maturity.

As for those with disabilities, there are few people in this state who would flat out refuse the opportunity to help them by providing a good spot to hunt without a bait attractant.

The quantity of bait issue written into the amended version of the bill is not acceptable. Nor is the distance from property lines—virtually not enforceable and basically accomplishing nothing. Disease spread and ethics are not satisfied with these amendments.

In closing, a no vote on this bill is the right one—biologically, ethically, and enforcement-wise.

Respectfully,

Joe Solseng

1951 20<sup>th</sup> Street NE

Grand Forks, ND 58203