

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

I am writing today to submit testimony in opposition to HB1151, both in its original and current amended form.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has a difficult job of managing for diseases among wildlife while keeping long held hunting traditions and methods in place. Thus far North Dakota has not had significant increases in CWD-positive deer and I believe that is due to management practices implemented by NDGF. One of those management practices is the banning of baiting big game in hunting units that have had deer test positive for CWD.

My concern with this bill does not involve the ethics of baiting deer for the purposes of hunting. My concern is with having legislative bodies create statute that will inhibit the NDGF's ability to manage game populations utilizing the latest science and best management practices.

This bill may be well intentioned but it sets a dangerous precedent. Other states have had legislatures enter the wildlife management arena and have thus managed by "popular opinion" and have seen declines in opportunities and outright bans of some hunting opportunities. I don't want to see North Dakota go down that same road and therefore would like to see HB1151 defeated.

Thank you,  
Joseph R. Doll