



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Testimony of John Bradley North Dakota Wildlife Federation House Bill 1327 House Energy & Natural Resources Committee January 21, 2021

Chairman Porter, members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). I am here today representing our 1,500 members and 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's club across North Dakota.

NDWF opposes HB 1327. Outside of the logistical nightmare that this bill would create for Game & Fish, our major issue with the bill is the availability of deer licenses for residents of North Dakota. Current law mandates that Game & Fish set aside one percent of allocated licenses for non-residents. This bill would set aside an additional one percent. In 2020, over 30,000 residents were unsuccessful in the first and second deer lotteries. Allocating even more licenses to nonresidents would increase the number of unsuccessful resident applicants proportionally and would be an unwelcome change to those residents.

I can tell you that there are a lot of North Dakota deer hunters who think the current 1% of allocated licenses for non-residents is too high. We held our legislative summit in December and a common theme from our members and partners were looking at more ways to limit non-resident pressure on our resources. This bill would expand non-resident pressure. NDWF urges a Do Not Pass.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that the committee might have.