

January 27, 2021

House Energy and Natural Resource Committee

I am currently the president of the North Dakota Fur Takers organization. North Dakota Fur Takers organization members consists of fur trappers, snarers, and day and night time predator callers. We stand in opposition to HB 1411, and ask for a do not pass vote.

Coyotes, fox, beaver and other furbearers are and continue to be a valuable resource to many individuals in North Dakota. A resource that should not be wasted with an early or year around night hunting season. Not only do their furs have value but create a recreational activity for many North Dakotans. Most serious trappers and hunters partake of these activities when the fur of these animals may have the most value, which is usually November, December and January. Furbearers taken out of this time frame usually have little or no value.

I have heard the argument that year around night hunting may help control predation to livestock. Maybe in some circumstances. In my past life I was a Wildlife Service Specialist. I know the damage that some wildlife can cause to livestock and other property damage. I believe a property owner is allowed to protect his own property, designate an agent, or contact USDA for help.

I would hope most night hunters would obey the Game and Fish laws of North Dakota. There may be some individuals, " given the cover of darkness" , and the use of suppressors on their rifles, allowed to night hunt year around, that may not obey the law. This could jeopardize the night hunting season that is already established by North Dakota law after the close of the deer rifle season.

As expressed, the North Dakota Fur Takers organization stands in opposition to HB 1411, and request a do not pass vote.

North Dakota Fur Takers President

Scott Evens