



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION SENATE BILL 2211 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE MARCH 5, 2021

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

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

NDWF rises in opposition to SB 2211. We oppose SB 2211 for numerous reasons. The first of which is that the legislature expanded opportunities for night hunting with artificial light last session and there hasn't been adequate time to evaluate that decision. I think it's important to remember that livestock producers already have the ability to shoot depredating furbearers at night, any time of the year under 20.1-07-04. This language was further clarified by this committee in HB 1411 earlier this session.

Coyotes are a highly valued wildlife resource and hunting outside prime fur season is a waste of this fur resource that could otherwise be used if harvested at another time.

Not all furbearer population are robust and warrant additional methods of take. The inclusion of furbearers in this bill includes mountain lion and bobcat. Furthermore, identification of protected species, such as marten, fisher, swift fox, and Canada lynx while hunting at night is challenging even for experienced hunters.

Lastly, this bill increases the burden on North Dakota's game wardens. They are already stretched thin across the state and this will only add to their workload. We feel that expanding night hunting opportunities will lead to more poaching cases across the state.

We urge a do no pass on SB 2211.

I will stand for any questions that the committee may have. Thank you.