



House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony in opposition of SB 2211

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Stephanie Tucker, Game Management Section Leader and Furbearer Biologist
March 5, 2021

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Stephanie Tucker and I am the Game Management Section Leader and Furbearer Biologist with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

We oppose SB 2211 for many of the same reasons we were initially concerned about HB 1411 prior to the House's bill being amended. Namely, the waste of valuable fur resources when they are unprime, the expansion of night hunting which is already a controversial method of take among fur harvesters, and the potential risks to livestock or recreationalists.

In addition, SB 2211 goes even further by mandating that we allow night hunting for 6 additional species of furbearers (badgers, bobcats, mountain lions, mink, muskrats, and weasels) for which we do not currently allow night hunting. As such, this brings up additional concerns for us because we are not confident night hunters will be able to positively discern the difference between closely resembling species such as a mink and a protected marten or a skunk and a protected fisher. In addition, our existing mountain lion regulations prohibit the harvest of a lion with visible spots or females accompanied by kittens. It would be extremely challenging or impossible to determine either of those while night hunting.

And while we are pleased that the original bill was amended to exclude the overlap of night hunting and our deer gun season, it did nothing to prevent the overlap of other popular big game seasons, such as pronghorn, elk, and moose.

For these reasons Chairman Porter, the Department respectfully requests a DO NOT PASS on SB 2211.