

January 21, 2021

Senator Merrill Piepkorn
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Senator Piepkorn,

I am writing and asking for your help with legislation to amend the Century Code in this legislative session. Senate Bill 2211 will be heard by your committee this afternoon (2:15 PM, January 21, 2021).

We spent a great deal of time with this portion of the Century Code in the last legislative session, and with your help, allowing the use of artificial light to safely hunt at night. During the testimony and discussions at that time, North Dakota Game and Fish Department staff provided information that night hunting would be unacceptable to them if allowed during the regular deer gun season, hence the current opening after the close of the regular deer gun season.

An amended version of the proposed legislation in Senate Bill 2211 that included (Line 19) "... the animal, excluding the regular deer gun season." may be more appropriate and amenable to the Department. If this legislation is passed without that exclusion, I foresee the Department returning to an era when all furbearers had more restrictive season dates and methods of take by Governor's Proclamation. I believe having the 17-day break for the regular deer gun season is the better option.

I am aware of a companion bill in the House of Representatives (HB 1411) that seeks a similar amendment to the Century Code. I trust your committee and the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee will resolve the competing bills and choose the right path. Please contact me if you have any questions or need my help.

Thank you for your service to the great State of North Dakota!

Respectfully,

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