

To the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

As a North Dakota hunter, I believe strongly in ensuring hunting privileges are available to current and future generations. I side with Theodore Roosevelt who believed science should be the underpinning of wildlife policy. To this end, I oppose HB1151 as it is a direct attempt to circumvent the ability of wildlife professionals to manage our North Dakota deer herd, based on the best available science. The best scientific evidence to-date shows "Although important gaps in the scientific literature exist, current information is sufficient to conclude that providing food to wildlife through supplemental feeding or baiting has great potential to negatively impact species health and represents a non-natural arena for disease transmission and preservation."

Here is the research article where the authors make this statement: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2013.11.010>.

On a personal note, I lived in Wisconsin in the 1990's and 2000's when Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) got out of control due to improper management. During the early years of CWD in Wisconsin, people were naturally upset about potential bait bans, but when CWD reached levels where it started to affect deer numbers, people quickly changed their tune. It certainly changed my attitudes towards baiting and regulation thereof. But by then it was too late. We had larger numbers of deer eradicated from entire counties by a combination of CWD and hired sharpshooters, which meant virtually no deer tags and hunting opportunities for several years. We are in the early years of CWD in North Dakota but the time to act is now. We can slow the spread of CWD and keep it at manageable levels so that it doesn't negatively impact our hunting opportunities. We will never eradicate CWD from the state but we can ensure it doesn't affect our hunting privileges.

What good is a corn pile without deer or a license? Join me in opposing HB 1151.

Sincerely,

Clint Otto