

House Energy and Natural Resources:

I'm in support of HB 1151 to give landowners and hunters the right to continue baiting.

NDGF has done lots of good things for fish and wildlife over the years, but this is an overreach on their part in my opinion. As numerous others have stated, so I don't need to repeat them, there is minimal proof that CWD is the problem some people are stating. Feed lots, small towns in the winter, elevator grain piles are all places where deer congregate and feed, especially in the winter. These locations contain many times the deer populations that a bait pile during hunting season would produce.

I too volunteer with the Twist of Fate handicap hunt, as well as the Outdoor Adventure Foundation where baiting is critical to the success of the hunters. Without a well placed bait pile, the success rate would be slim to none given the limited range of motion and mobility of most of the hunters. A well placed bait pile also increases the odds of a killing shot, helping to reduce the chances of wounding and guessing on their shots.

Baiting is a touchy subject, and should be a personal choice of an individual. With the numbers of hunters being reduced each year, why give them more chances to not want to hunt? I would personally like to see the online posting for hunting eliminated instead since that is a larger deterrent to hunters in mine and others opinions, but it's not in this bill.

We don't need to be like the other states and apply their rules to our state. There are great hunting opportunities in ND that other states don't have, and let's leave it this way. I'm in support of HB 1151 as a hunter, sportsman and volunteer.

Bruce Lykken

