

Chairman Porter and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1151.

As a hunter and avid outdoorswoman, I consider myself fortunate to live in a State so rich in natural resources and abundant game populations. As a hunter, I also place my trust in the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. This model is guided by seven principles, one of which is “science is the proper tool for the discharge of wildlife policy” and has been the backbone of wildlife conservation successes across North America, including the white-tailed deer. The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and its seven guiding principles are so integral to successful management of wildlife populations that it is part of our state’s hunter’s education curriculum.

The mission of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is *to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use*. HB1151 undermines the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and sets forth a practice within North Dakota that undercuts the ability of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to deliver their mission to manage wildlife populations for future generations.

Decisions that bring about change, especially to long held traditions, are fraught with emotion. I ask that the committee set aside the emotions that will be on display, and trust in the best available information that is provided to you by subject experts. I ask for a DO NOT PASS of HB1151.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Rachel Bush