

Dear Energy and Natural Resources Committee Members,

I am writing today in opposition of SB 2368. The creation of a commission to oversee the ND Game and Fish Department may seem feasible or even responsible when first considered. However, time and time again, this type of thing has proven to be detrimental the outdoors lifestyle that North Dakotan's hold so dear. I generally support government agencies being held accountable, and the NDGF has always been both approachable and transparent in my experience.

Many states in our union manage their wildlife, fish and even parks through a commission appointed by the sitting Governor. These commissions often become both political tools and targets. One must only look West of our great state to see ever changing policy that has bounces from one extreme to the next, at the direction of politically driven commissioners.

I believe that the professionals at the ND Game and Fish Department are the best stewards for our wildlife and wild spaces. While I like to think that I do my best to consider all sides to an issue before passing judgement, I know that no person will ever be completely bias-free. In this, I commend the staff of the Department for their dedication to balance all things such as: agricultural needs, public opinion, outdoorspeople's expectations, monetary implications, and perhaps the most difficult; differing political opinions.

I urge you to leave the management of our game to the folks who dedicate their lives to this and avoid opening another door for those opposed to hunting, fishing and trapping to interfere with the passions that are engrained in North Dakota heritage. Please do not allow our wildlife management to be tossed around like a political football, nor hand out-of-state, anti-hunting groups more power to interfere.

While North Dakota has seen a relatively small amount of pressure of the anti-hunting crowd, we are certainly not immune to it in the future. The less we open the door to it, the better.

Please vote NO on Senate Bill 2368.

Sincerely,

Nevin Jenner

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