



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY  
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
SENATE BILL 2368  
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 2, 2023**

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, executive director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). I'm here today representing our thousands of members in 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's clubs across North Dakota that make up the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

NDWF opposes SB 2368. The Wildlife Federation has a strong track record of working with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department on a variety of issues facing sportsmen and women, agriculture partners, and the public's fish, game, and non-game critters. Through stakeholder and advisory meetings, administrative rules, and legislation, the Department gets input from the public on how to manage the public's fish and game. They consider this input, along with the best available science to create management plans and rules to achieve their mission.

While we recognize that this bill is only calling for a study, we feel that a study is not necessary to determine that a Fish & Game Commission is not in the best interest of the sportsmen and women of this state. We've seen the negative impacts that a commission can have on wildlife

management, habitat projects, and hunting and fishing opportunity in other western states. We firmly believe that a wildlife commission overseeing the Game & Fish Department would lead to more politicization and commercialization of the public's wildlife.

Adding an additional layer of politics to North Dakota's wildlife management agency would hurt our wildlife, habitat, and outdoor heritage. Wildlife management and policy decisions should be left to the North Dakota's wildlife professionals.

We urge a Do Not Pass on SB 2368.