



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
NORTH DAKOTA

**TESTIMONY OF BROCK WAHL
NORTH DAKOTA BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS
HOUSE BILL 1236
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE
January 24, 2025**

The North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers urges a Do Not Pass for HB 1236.

The department has spent approximately \$900,000 in hunter license dollars on CWD management within the state of North Dakota since 2007. That's an 18-year period and translates to an average of roughly \$50,000 per year on CWD management. That figure represents a fraction of a percent of their biennial budget. Despite the claims by bill proponents, \$240 million is not "up for grabs", as the CWD Research and Management Act (Sponsored by ND Senator John Hoeven) has not been funded and any monies for CWD research continue to be allocated via competitive grants through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal & Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS).

We view this bill, as well as the other CWD and baiting related bills, as ballot box biology. The authors are severely misinformed on the subject of chronic wasting disease and its impacts to cervid health and cervid populations across the continent. Passing this bill would be flat out irresponsible and frankly, insulting. It would make the state of North Dakota the only state in the nation who forced their own Game and Fish Department to completely abandon efforts to participate in CWD research, surveillance, communication, and education.

This bill is a proposal to make it required by state law that we all bury our heads in the sand.

We strongly oppose HB 1236.

Brock Wahl
Chairman
Board of Directors
North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
northdakota@backcountryhunters.org



WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/NORTH_DAKOTA_BHA
NORTHDAKOTA@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG