

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
SENATE BILL 2199
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MARCH 7, 2025

Chairman Porter 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). We are opposed to SB 2199. NDWF believes our service members and veterans deserve the utmost respect, we are put in a hard position to testify against this bill. We struggle with opening up the deer lottery to recognize service, whether that's veterans, active service members, EMTs, police officers, firefighters or anyone else who is deserving. With potentially thousands of North Dakota veterans who would be eligible for a bonus point in the lottery, units where it could take anywhere from 5-10 years for the general lottery hunter to draw a tag, could take even longer.

There is also confusion with the current language on whether the added points accumulate over time or if an additional point is added for that individual year. Does the added point go away after that year's lottery or does it stay and another point is added again next year?

Currently there are other options for disabled veterans to participate in hunts, including the Camp Grafton Annual Disabled Veteran Deer Hunt and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park cow elk cull. Additionally, there are numerous pheasant, waterfowl and other hunts offered for veterans from local on the ground clubs.

We believe there are other ways outside of watering down the deer lottery to recognize the sacrifice that disabled veterans have made. We urge a Do Not Pass on SB 2199.