

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
SENATE BILL 2216
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MARCH 6, 2025

Chairman Porter and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF).

NDWF supports the bill, and we urge a Do Pass on SB 2216. We appreciate the work of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to amend the bill to target waterfowl hunters only and require non-residents to also be included. These changes would increase the funds raised for waterfowl conservation and youth hunting. While we were disappointed to see the Senate Appropriations reduce the license from \$10 to \$5, we feel that the bill is still worthy of passage.

A dedicated waterfowl license for North Dakota waterfowlers would serve several purposes. The dollars generated from the license would be used to provide waterfowl habitat with the state and engage the next generation of waterfowl hunters through desperately needed youth hunting opportunities. The last major benefit would be to provide the North Dakota Game and Fish with a better tool to determine how many resident vs. non-resident waterfowl hunters there are in the state, creating better data and allowing more accurate surveys on resident waterfowl hunter satisfaction.

We realize there is another bill that passed through this committee that is addressing broader license fees. As you know from our testimony, NDWF is supportive of that effort as well.

North Dakota waterfowl hunters have stepped up, met across the state, worked with the Department and legislators, and are now asking for this waterfowl license. We urge a Do Pass on SB 2216.