

To: Chair Patten and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
From: Senator Sean Cleary, District 35 — Bismarck, Bill Sponsor
Date: 1/23/2025
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 2155

Dear Chair Patten and Members of the Committee:

I am here to present SB 2155 for your favorable consideration.

Purpose of the Bill - This bill seeks to amend state law to ensure a more equitable distribution of pronghorn hunting licenses between landowner (gratis) hunters and non-landowner hunters.

Current Law and Issues—Under the current system, the first 50 of any pronghorn license type in each unit are reserved exclusively for gratis hunters, with the remaining licenses split evenly. This has resulted in some units only allocating 5% of the licenses to non-landowners, making it a decade-long wait for someone who doesn't own land to be selected for a license.

Proposed Changes - This bill would establish a consistent 50/50 allocation of buck pronghorn licenses between landowner and non-landowner hunters.

Anticipated Impact—As there is a smaller pool of gratis hunters applying for licenses, they will still have a much higher likelihood of drawing a license relative to non-landowner hunters, but this change will result in a more even distribution. Additional testimony from supporters of the bill will highlight other data about how this will impact North Dakota hunters.

Amendment - Included is an amendment to clarify that this bill does not eliminate the lottery system for licenses. I support this amendment and believe it provides important clarification.

Thank you for considering this legislation. **I respectfully ask for a "Do-Pass" recommendation.** I am available to provide additional information or answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Sean Cleary
State Senator
District 35 -- Bismarck
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