

My name is Kent Reiersen from Williston, ND. I am writing in support of SB2155. This legislation would improve the fairness of antelope tag allocation. This is simply a matter of correcting an inequitable situation that has developed due to decreasing antelope numbers and tags. Hopefully, numbers will continue to increase as they have for the past several years due to the milder winters. This Bill will create slightly more equal access to a public resource. When antelope numbers were higher and there were more tags this allocation was not such an issue. While the system was still highly weighted in favor of the landowner it did not lock non landowners, the majority of the antelope tag applicants, out of possibly drawing a tag.

While landowner relations are extremely important, so is basic fairness in allocating a public resource. No one can look at the current system and believe it is a fair allocation. In some units, landowners can get a tag every year, gratis, and receive the bulk of the allocation. In western ND many of the antelope are on public land and the public cannot draw a tag to access that resource.

It has been over a decade since I was able to draw a tag as I have 11 points. Being 70 years old now, I hope it is not another decade before I am able to draw a tag.

The adoption of the provisions in this bill, will still weigh heavily in favor of the landowner and that is acceptable to the majority of non-landowner sportsmen. But it will at least give non-landowner applicants a more equitable chance at some of the tags. I hope you can see the unfairness of the present allocation and take some steps to reduce the inequity of the current allocation by passing this bill.

Thank you.