

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
SENATE BILL 2197
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 23, 2025

Chairman Patten 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). NDWF is opposed to SB 2199.

North Dakotans cherish their deer hunting opportunity. Many wait years to draw a tag for a specific coveted unit. Opening up crossbow opportunities would diminish deer hunting opportunities for the general sportsmen. Crossbows have become quite sophisticated over the last two decades, boasting speeds close to 400 FPS and now offered with a variety of latest scopes, making their effective range much farther than compound bows and other traditional archery equipment. The existing bow season is statewide and encompasses all units, adding additional crossbow opportunities would further crowd and increase hunter pressure in certain units.

North Dakota already allows the use of crossbows in two other scenarios. First, crossbows can be used by anyone, regardless of age during North Dakota's "any weapon" season with a hunter lottery drawn tag. The second opportunity is the medical disability crossbow permit. To acquire this permit, a hunter, regardless of age, must obtain an application from the Game & Fish Department and have it signed by his or her medical professional. The Game and Fish Department offers a 5 year permit for those with a severe disability and a one year permit for those with lesser disability that may be recoverable. Both of these options can be renewed with another application and doctor/s note.

We urge a Do Not Pass on SB 2197.