TESTIMONY OF MIKE McENROE
SENATE BILL 2184
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 21, 2021

Chairman Kreun and members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Mike McEnroe and I have been a North Dakota Hunter Education instructor for 29 years. I am not providing testimony on behalf of the 700-800 Hunter Education instructors in the state, only commenting as one of them.

I am opposed to SB 2184 which would provide the opportunities for Hunter Education volunteers/instructors to receive licenses to hunt any legal deer for teaching in the previous year, or a license to hunt bighorn sheep, elk, or moose after teaching for each of the preceding five years.

Hunter education instructors volunteer because they want to teach and mentor our youth and older beginning hunters about the importance of hunting in our North Dakota way of life, the need for all hunters to be responsible and hunt and act safely, and to continue to support hunting and wildlife habitat programs in the State. We do not volunteer in order to receive license preferences.

Last year the Game and Fish Department issued approximately 523 elk licenses, 474 moose license, and 6 bighorn sheep licenses (License numbers from ND Outdoors magazine). With between 700 and 800 Hunter Education volunteer instructors in the State, that number of licenses allocated by SB 2184 would overwhelm the lottery system for allocating elk, moose, and bighorn licenses and out-compete other hunters for the most preferred or sought-after deer licenses, such as mule

deer buck tags in the Badlands or buck tags in almost any unit in the State.

The preferential treatment for awarding deer, elk, moose, and bighorn sheep licenses proposed in SB 2184 is not sustainable.

I respectfully ask that SB 2184 receive a "Do Not Pass" recommendation from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

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