



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION SENATE BILL 2211 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE JANUARY 21, 2021

Chairman Kreun, members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. I am here today representing our 1,500 members and 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's club across North Dakota, including the North Dakota Fur Hunters and Trappers Association.

NDWF rises in opposition to SB 2211. We oppose SB 2211 for numerous reasons. The first of which is that the legislature expanded opportunities for night hunting with artificial light last session and there hasn't been adequate time to evaluate that decision. I think its important to remember that livestock producers already have the ability to shoot depredating furbearers at night, any time of the year under 20.1-07-04.

The science is not there to increase the method of take and expand the season. Coyote populations are trending downward and red fox are at all-time low. Coyotes are a highly valued wildlife resource and hunting outside prime fur season is a waste of this fur resource that could otherwise be used if harvested at another time.

Not all furbearer population are robust and warrant additional methods of take. The inclusion of furbearers in this bill includes mountain lion and bobcat. Furthermore, identification of protected species, such as marten, fisher, swift fox, and Canada lynx while hunting at night is challenging.

Lastly, this bill increases the burden on North Dakota's game wardens. They are already stretched thin and this will add to their workload. We urge a do no pass on SB 2211.

I will stand for any questions that the committee may have. Thank you.