

RE: HB 1151

Dear Energy and Natural Resource Committee,

This letter is to express my support for HB 1151.

I grew up hunting with my dad, both my uncles, my grandpa and many more family members and friends. We have been avid outdoorsmen for generations including waterfowl and big game hunting. The true desire for us to hunt has been in our blood since the beginning of human civilization, meaning there should be no way someone can tell you the rights and wrongs of feeding animals much less deer. The positive values of baiting deer much outweigh the negatives. Take a look at the 2022-23 Winter North Dakota is experiencing for example, thousands of deer herded up in agricultural fields, coulees, farm yards, ect. This absolute, scientific fact that deer congregate to help each other find food, make trails and alleviate the pressure from predation is the reason deer congregate into herds in the winter. It is vital that outdoorsman, sportsman, and everyone have the ability to bait/feed deer and other sport animals year round including rifle and archery season, its what maintains populations of all animals by keeping them healthy and at optimal conservation numbers. Without this, sportsmen do not have the ability to put out nutritional mineral licks and feed that are a necessity for mothering animals, maturing deer lacking vitamins and other animals preventing disease. Disease in all living organisms happen, so why not be able to combat those problems with nutrition and making animals be at optimal healthy scales for survival. One more impact of allowing baiting / feeding of animals is that it brings in new people to our state, and gets everyone the chance to be apart of the great outdoors. Revenue for the state, local businesses and game and fish will increase with the ability of more people to enjoy hunting. I and many other avid conservationists and sportsmen approve of the baiting bill 1151 and I hope you take these examples to reference in the outcome of this hearing.

Sincerely,

Jayden Votava