

To: North Dakota House Energy & Natural Resources Committee

From: Jay Gotta

900 Prospect Pt.

Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: HB1151

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Jay Gotta of Bismarck. I am here to testify in support of HB1151, the North Dakota Deer Baiting bill.

As a citizen of North Dakota, a father of four boys, and a sportsman, I applaud the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's efforts to expand hunting opportunities. The Department's recent ruling on baiting bans limits hunting opportunity. This bill is in response to the Department bypassing the will of North Dakota citizens and their elected legislature by fiat, to ban a common hunting practice, with limited scientific data to back the department's ruling.

The Department's response to confronting a disease in cervids known as Chronic Wasting Disease(CWD) has been to try and control the spread by trying to keep deer from congregating. The Department wants us to "Trust the Science". Or in other words, try to keep deer from acting like deer. That seems to me to be about as constructive as trying to hold water in your hands.

In exchange for potentially slowing the spread of CWD, the department has dictated that sportsmen give up their hunting right to pursue a harvest in a manner they enjoy. Some will argue that hunting over bait is not ethical. Does that not then call into question all hunting methods? What will be said when methods such as hunting from a heated box or ground blind is questioned? Or hunting over a food plot? Should trail cameras be allowed? Are these methods ethical? What happens when someone else's Ox gets gored?

I urge your support of HB1151 and the protection of North Dakota hunting opportunities.

Thank you.