



## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION**

January 16, 2023

TO: ND House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

FR: Ryan Bronson, Director of Government Affairs

RE: Concerns with HB 1151 Regarding Baiting

The RMEF mission is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. We represent more than 225,000 members nationwide and more than 4,000 in North Dakota. Since 1991 RMEF has completed more than 250 conservation and hunting heritage projects in the state, enhancing over 59,422 acres and improved access to 36,317 acres.

RMEF is a founding member of the CWD Alliance, and we recently allocated \$100,000 in grant funding to assist with research to improve scientific understanding of CWD and to enhance ways to fight it. We worked closely with Senator Hoeven this past Congress to successfully pass the CWD Research and Management Act. We consider CWD a significant threat to deer and elk.

Baiting and feeding deer and elk can increase the risk of transmission of CWD prions, and the Department of Game and Fish have utilized baiting restrictions in areas where CWD transmission is of highest risk. Taking their authority away is counterproductive for slowing or stopping the spread of CWD.