

I would like to share my opinion on house bill HB1151.

First let us talk business. After all that is what game and fish is. A business with Employees and Wildlife valued as commodities and I truly have zero issue with that. Has the game and fish department considered the long term financial impact of non-baiting ? Game and fish has really stumbled into a financial cash cow of bow tags with an average of 28,000 tags a year over the last 4 years at \$20.00 or more per a tag is \$560,000.00 a year or roughly 2.2 million in the last four years. Now why is this number important?

I for the first time since I began bowhunting did not fill my tag. My stepsons who are 16 and 14 also did not fill a tag. Collectively we hunted over 150days. For me it was a sour grape amongst a large bag of success but for my sons it was a large bag of sour grapes and it got to the point of where I was begging them to hunt. If they don't taste success soon bow hunting for them will be quickly forgotten. Now as the populations ages is game and fish willing and able to watch the bow tag purchase along with what is likely other tag purchase's combos etc. that are made when buying the bow tag slowly fade away as game and fish has made the sport unfulfillable for so many of today's young hunters? Seems to be a large monetary impact coming.

Now I would like to talk sensibility.

I can feed deer to look at out my window but I can not feed deer to harvest?? I mean really how could a person have even wrote this law without cracking up laughing realizing how ludicrous , Unsensible and Unenforceable it really is. Now I have zero argument that CWD is real and a potential problem. But how is not allowing me to have a way greater chance of filling my tag and thinning the population out safer for the deer then feeding them for my viewing enjoyment only ? Science or no science there is no logical answer for that.

Secondly. What are you creating in hunters? Unsuccessful? Unethical? How many individuals have to wrestle with following a law that makes no sense and attempt to create success for themselves, Spouses , Children etc. that we so desperately want and need in this sport for a sustainable wildlife and game and fish future. Or break a law that is virtually unenforceable unless the game and fish is sitting on private property attempting to play gotcha. Seems to be an extreme can of worms that I have zero interest opening and nor should the game and fish as property owners do have rights to protect them from trespassing. How does game and fish show up door to door and say (we think you're doing something illegal and were going to go check it out) If game and fish is right lucky them. If game and fish is wrong ?.....

Lastly. Now I understand my arguments are all a double edged sword. CWD is real and Game and Fish has the nearly impossible job of curing what seems to be a uncurable disease. What will fix CWD ? if the answer is science I can be on board with that quickly but science cost's money. Why not create a baiting stamp/tag? It alleviates the did you or didn't you break the law of baiting question. It is no different than do you or do you not have appropriate tags to hunt. And it would give your field staff an enforceable law Now I have no data on this but I am assuming 50% of the tag purchasers would hunt over bait. Charge 10-20 dollars for a baiting stamp and put several hundred thousand dollars a year or more since you potentially wouldn't see a decline in tags and put it all into a CWD fund and continue to try and find the

solution versus saying we don't want deer to congregate on a bait pile. But they can congregate everywhere else. Game and fish employ smart people. They all know bait piles are a very very small percentage of the issue. In the summer months I have more deer attack my garden and apple trees than my bait pile.

All I am asking for is a logical, sustainable way for my family's traditions to continue and for Game and Fish to put forward logical options that may cost us a dollar or two in the end but allow all of us to continue to thrive.

Respectfully

Josh Rauser