

I am an avid hunter and love the outdoors. Over the last 4 years, I have gotten the opportunity to participate as an adaptive athlete/hunter with Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports and Prairie Grit Outdoors. I, along with several others in our outdoors group, have become very close and created lifelong memories spending time together hunting and enjoying the outdoors. We have volunteers that have spent A LOT of their time taking us out in blinds, traveling with us, preparing and setting up hunting spots for us to be able to hunt. None of the hunting opportunities would be possible without these volunteers in our group.

I am writing this because the rules on baiting by the ND Game & Fish have affected our hunting group and made it very difficult for us to enjoy a hunt. I respect the ND Game & Fish and think they do a wonderful job on so many things for North Dakota outdoors. But, these rules on baiting are hindering our experiences and making it very difficult for successful hunts for our adaptive hunters. The science behind these baiting restrictions do not seem to make sense to us and we'd love to have further discussions in order to make these hunts possible and successful for our adaptive hunters.

Growing up in North Dakota, I have always enjoyed our outdoors and hunting/fishing, but without Prairie Grit and the amazing volunteers we have, successful hunts and fishing outings would not be possible for me as a wheelchair user. Prairie Grit Outdoors and the people involved in Prairie Grit have drastically improved my quality of life and I wouldn't be where I am today, in life, without this group and the opportunities, confidence and friendships they have given to me.

As a person in a wheelchair, it is very difficult to navigate the outdoors in North Dakota in the winter. It is difficult for an able bodied person some days in the winter to navigate after snow storms, as we all know! So, getting the opportunity for a successful hunt is already few and far between for a wheelchair user like myself and several others in our group. By putting these baiting rules in place, that is making it even harder for us. Based on the science and the statistics of baiting wildlife, it hasn't shown that it really produces more spread of Chronic Waste Disease (CWD) and we have submitted the proof of that through others testimony in support of HB 1151.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this testimony. Please vote "Yes" on HB 1151.

Sincerely,

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