

January 17, 2023

To: ND House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

I am testifying in opposition to HB 1151. I am a lifelong North Dakota resident and hunter and I have spent many seasons bowhunting whitetails over bait. I do not have a problem with the ethics of baiting deer. I do have a problem with restricting our state wildlife agency's ability to manage our wildlife and our future hunting opportunities effectively.

If HB 1151 is approved it will set a dangerous precedent. It takes an important wildlife decision away from the scientific professionals at the North Dakota Game and Fish, and turns it over to our Legislature where there is more opportunity for emotional, non-scientific influence from lobbying groups and the general public. The North Dakota Game and Fish has many tough decisions to make, but they have proven themselves to act in the best interest of wildlife and future hunting in North Dakota. States like Washington and New Jersey serve as examples of the dangers HB 1151 sets precedent for. These states have lost hunting rights and hunting seasons because wildlife decisions were taken away from their state wildlife agency and turned over to their legislature and public vote.

The folks at the North Dakota Game and Fish are pro-wildlife, pro-hunting, and are trying to do what's best to ensure quality hunting for future North Dakotans. Please allow these professionals to act in the best interest of future hunting opportunities and oppose HB 1151.

Thank you,

Jordan Gleason