

Dear Representatives,

I am in support of HB 1151. I have been an avid hunter in ND for 35 years. I believe that this bill is very important for the future of deer hunting in ND. Baiting deer is very valuable for our youth hunters, and a great way to give them an opportunity they need to get started, and have success while building memories. Baiting is also essential for allowing opportunities for our handicapped hunters, and some elderly hunters, who would otherwise not have these opportunities. I also believe that because of the baiting restrictions that are already in place, we are seeing a lot of bowhunters going to public lands (Badlands) of western ND. In my opinion, there is too much hunting pressure in the Badlands. These hunters can no longer bait in their home unit, so they have to go where they have land access, and opportunity. Baiting also allows for clean, ethical shot placement as the deer are usually standing at close distance. This would result in fewer wounded deer on the landscape. Baiting allows hunters to target mature animals, allowing younger deer to grow. I believe that during harsh winters, baiting/feeding deer provides some extra nutrition and fat reserves that could prevent winter kill in some deer herds. I believe that deer will "yard up", or group together during the winter months regardless if bait is used or not. So as far as preventing disease, I do not think that making baiting illegal is the right answer. I think there are too many benefits with baiting, to prohibit it. Whether we as hunters are for, or against this bill, we need to realize the real reasons for hunting. For me, hunting means conservation, family tradition, memories, and getting youth involved, while creating opportunities for their success.

Thank you for helping me support HB 1151