

January 17, 2023

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Dear House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Please oppose HB 1151. Baiting of deer is not necessary to harvest them and it concentrates deer, greatly increasing the chance of disease transmission such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). To keep a healthy and sustained deer population, deer should remain wild in their behavior and not artificially concentrated through baiting (or feeding).

CWD is a great threat to our state's cervid populations and the collateral damage from it spreading and becoming more prevalent is great. This damage includes a lower deer population, less recreation opportunity, fewer people hunting due to less deer and concern over diseased deer, less license fee revenue, a drain on staff and budget from spending more time on the issue, and increased chance it spreads to elk, moose, and mule deer, further exasperating the damage done.

Let's manage our public resource of wildlife smart, help ourselves out in the long term and do the right thing now - do not allow baiting (or feeding) of deer.

Thank you,

Jodie Provost

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