

RE: Support of Bill HB 1151

Doug Thorp

921 75<sup>th</sup> St. NE

Willow City, ND 58384

I am in support of this bill for many reasons. As a bowhunter and a grandfather, hunting over bait encourages the sport of bowhunting. I was able to help my children learn and enjoy the sport, and would like to do the same for my grandchildren. Being able to sit among the deer and learn their behavior makes for a better hunter. It is also more enjoyable to sit in a deer blind and watch the deer. Now they are unable to do this. Without bait, I do not think they will take up the sport of deer hunting if they don't get to sit and watch the deer. The placing of a small amount of bait increases the excitement for them as they watch a deer close up and encourages them to place an ethical shot.

I am not a wildlife biologist, but as a rancher, I have had many years of experience with hundreds of deer congregating in my cattle feed. I am also a hunting guide who has used baiting in the past. Typically, there would be 1-5 deer in the bait. It is hard to understand why the small amount of deer gathering around my bait is more of a problem than when the deer naturally congregate by the hundreds. As a rancher and hunting guide, it feels like we are losing more of our private property rights.

Once again, I am in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

Doug Thorp