

January 18, 2023

Dear Chairman, and Members of the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee,

For the record, my name is John Weinand. I'm a farmer-rancher, sportsman from Hazen, ND.

My testimony is given in support of: HB 1151.

ND Game & Fish does not need any more power to ban hunting activities in ND. If the yarding up of deer is the basis for the ban, then we would have to change the natural activity of whitetail deer to be effective.

Over the years, I personally have observed large natural concentrations of whitetail deer along the Knife River and Spring Creek near Zap. I've seen concentrations of 200-300 in a very small area (prior to the EHD outbreak).

I see no benefit to a baiting ban as a method of fighting the spread of disease. It only reduces hunting opportunities and infringes on landowner rights.

Sincerely,

John Weinand