

RE: HB 1151

Dear Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Representatives

I am writing this letter in support of HB1151. I am an avid hunter and rancher in 3A2 where we have not been able to bait for a few years now because we bordered a unit with a positive case in 3A1. The non-baiting rule that we have is one of the dumbest written laws I have ever seen. I would like to know why CWD is only carried in 5-gallon buckets by hunters? Why can my grandma put out feed to watch wildlife come into her front yard be ok but if I stop by to visit with my bow, now I have just increased the chance of the disease spreading? This law they have implemented is not to stop or slow the spread of the disease but to control how hunters harvest deer plain and simple. In our area lots of farmers use grain bags in fields for grain storage, guess what they get holes in them and lots of deer come in to eat the grain that spills from the bag, I can hunt that because I didn't put it there and that is ok but if I carried 5 gals over and piled beside the bag that was leaking 10,000 bushels out of it then I can't hunt there, makes perfect sense. The amount of grain used by hunters to bait in deer to get in closer range for a more ethical shot or for a chance of youth hunter to take their first deer is a minute amount of grain that is spilt or lost by farmers and elevators.

Now that we can't bait, we have started growing several food plots which are ok to hunt over. I'm still drawing deer into one area but that is ok because I'm not carrying feed out in a bucket, buckets spread CWD. Now after my corn has matured, I mow it and the cobs shatter spreading the corn all over the ground, still ok. Now if I took my spinner feeder and stuck up there filled with corn and it spread corn out in a 30' diameter circle, I would be increasing the chances of the spread of CWD, makes sense again.

I have taken both my kids hunting for their youth seasons during this non baiting session, we have been able to fill all their tags throughout the years but it has been a battle and I hate to say it but there has been some longer range and quicker shots taken that have resulted in some wounded deer and unfound deer, not to mention tears and lost interest in the sport. Had I been able to bait in the deer to a closer range and keep them there longer, this could've been prevented. Youth have a limited time to hunt and gain interest in the sport the way it is, and nothing ruins it faster than having an unsuccessful season because their right to bait was taken away from them but someone 10 miles away in another unit could bait. Deer don't stop at the unit borders either, they intermingle.

The main thing that irritates me the most with this no baiting rule is the lack of common sense behind it and the fact that there is no science if no baiting is doing any good. Deer are social animals, and the small amount of bait out there is not going to put a dent in the problem, it is just a control rule for the hunters.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinions, please pass this bill and give us our rights back.

Sincerely Ryan Ones

