

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly OPPOSE House Bill No. 1151. While there is no specific research YET in North Dakota on the effects of baiting deer with respect to CWD transmission, we can look to other studies of laterally transmissible diseases for some insight. We know that these types of diseases can be transmitted from deer to deer in the same way the flu transmits in humans. If you put 20 people in a room with 1 person who tested positive for flu, and let them all eat from the same bowl, at least 1 healthy person will contract the flu. Some argue that it's different for CWD and will completely dismiss the idea of applying basic logic and knowledge of the behavior of laterally transmissible diseases to a disease as relatively unresearched as CWD. This argument is not driven by a desire to preserve a resource for the long run, but by a desire to preserve the opportunity to harvest a resource without restrictions. Encouraging large groups of deer to congregate around a single human replenishable food source, we are creating the perfect situation for higher transmission of CWD than what might occur had these deer been left to forage on their own.

While there is not yet a way to completely eradicate the disease itself, decisions can be made that will keep the numbers of infected animals at a manageable level. These decisions should be made by the experts in the field itself, and passing this bill would remove them from the equation. The fish and wildlife professionals should have the ability to do what is necessary to preserve the natural resource. That's their job. It's not the job of the average hunter, like me, to decide what is best for a species right now, or in the long run. Please DO NOT pass HB 1151.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kelly Hale
Minot, ND

