

Dear Committee,

I am writing testimony in favor of 1151. I'd like to start by saying that as a guide for Twist of Fate (a physically challenged archery hunt) that baiting deer is ESSENTIAL to our organization. Without baiting our hunters would have little to no chance at harvesting a deer.

North Dakota has very little public land compared to neighboring states and even less trees and habitat. Which makes it very difficult to hunt white tail deer with archery equipment without the use of baiting. I'd like to be able to take my daughter, niece, and nephew hunting and give them an actual chance at harvesting a deer to keep the hunting tradition alive in North Dakota.

While I tend to want to leave these types of decisions up to the NDGF I feel that they have such a bias towards baiting and want it gone that they are using CWD as their way to get rid of it. I've attended their advisory board meetings and all they said the entire time was we hope, we feel, we think, we are optimistic that their baiting bans in certain units across the state are doing good. When in reality they really have no idea if it's actually working. CWD has been around since the 60s in Colorado. Guess what they still have a healthy deer population. Every state around North Dakota has had baiting bans for decades, and they all have more CWD cases than North Dakota. There is less than 1% of deer in North Dakota that have CWD according to the G&F's numbers. I know you will hear testimony that CWD is ALWAYS fatal to deer the G&F also showed a statistic that it takes 2-4 years for the prion in CWD to kill a deer. The average life span of a whitetail deer is 3.5 years!! The so-called science that says baiting spreads CWD is a joke at best. If it really did, there wouldn't be any deer left in North Dakota. Thank you for your time. Please pass this bill.