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Good morning, Chairman Porter and members of the committee, thank you for taking my testimony into consideration today. My name is Megan Langley. I am representing myself - not an organization - and I am testifying in support of HB 1151.

I am a lifelong North Dakotan. While hunting was a big part of my childhood, at the ripe old age of 35, I finally wrapped up my first full archery season, securing a nice 5 x 5 off my parents' land in 2F1 in September. I am lucky to have had a very successful first run, and I recognize that I had several tools at my disposal that many first-time archery hunters in our state don't have, including plentiful land along the Sheyenne River Valley, a partner with vast hunting expertise, and the ability to bait.

I spent an incredible amount of time from the spring of 2022 to the fall of 2022 getting ready for archery season. I acquired a bow and associated archery implements; spent time learning to shoot and estimate yardage; set up five tree stands and one tower stand; installed and monitored Tactacams; planned out and spent time hauling bait; and made a plan for which buck I wanted to shoot. The entire affair became something that not only I was incredibly engaged in and passionate about but also something that our entire family could participate in and enjoy - everyone from my 69- and 67-year-old dad and mom to our 4- and 6-year old kids. We all monitored the cameras - looking for that big shooter buck to arrive and document a pattern of behavior.

As all of you know, along with an investment of time came an investment of money. Based on receipts and a listing of debit card transactions, I am estimating that between equipment, clothing, bait, fuel, food, and taxidermy costs, I spent just north of \$8,000 to get myself set up this archery season for future seasons. Now, this year being my first year, I know my **hard** costs were especially high because of the capital expenses of a bow, tree stands, and cameras. I had some "catch up" to do. But my **potential annual** costs were not out of the ordinary in comparison to costs published by the North Dakota Game & Fish. According to the North Dakota Game & Fish Hunter & Angler Spending Report of 2017/2018, resident archery hunters spent, on average, approximately \$969.12 per season.

This equates to a primary spend per season by the total number of resident licensed hunters, which was 26,114 in 2017/2018, to \$25,307,600. ***Please note, this is direct-spend, not secondary economic impact.***

Many on the committee may feel like this is an impressive number, and you're right. However, since baiting has been restricted across North Dakota, the amount of direct-spend by resident licensed archers is actually down 27.4% based on the economic reports published by Game & Fish. Based upon the same economic impact report from the Game & Fish, the average spend of resident licensed archers in North Dakota in 2011/2012 was \$1,335.54. If that average spend would have remained consistent from 2011/2012 to 2017/2018 with an assumed same or similar amount of licensed resident archers, the total direct-spend impact would have been \$34,876,292. **That is a difference of nearly \$10 million.**

While the decline in average spend per archer cannot be fully attributed to the restrictions on baiting across the state, one can assume a correlation. More recent numbers are not yet available, as it appears the Game & Fish only collects and publishes this data approximately every 5 years. Yet, if we assume a similar decline based on baiting restriction patterns of 27.4% and a similar amount of licensed resident archers, restrictions on baiting may bring the total direct-spend in North Dakota to \$18,373,317. **A nearly \$17 million potential difference from pre-banning of baiting numbers.**

Hunting is a cornerstone of North Dakota's culture, economy, and history. For many state agencies and private businesses, capitalizing on North Dakota's unique sense of place, anchored by its social fabric, is critical when recruiting and retaining workforce. Many of us here come from rural communities. We have shopped locally to ensure the long-term **viability** of our emergency service personnel through sales tax collections, continued **ability** of our friends and neighbors to be entrepreneurs in our small towns, and long-term **livability** within communities with a high quality of life. The Legislature has supported that through its emergency investments in small business owners during difficult economic conditions; currently considered investments in the tens of millions of dollars for childcare facilities and workforce recruitment and retention programs; and history of prioritizing the use of **all North Dakota's tools for long-term economic prosperity.**

Your support of HB 1151 will ensure that North Dakota's communities will reclaim access to one of its most often overlooked tools to grow communities, not just in terms of outdoor recreation, but in terms of their ability to invest in infrastructure, workforce recruitment and retention, and small business development.

Thank you. I will now stand for any questions.

Summary of Archery Figures in Testimony

Year	Units Banned	Reported Per Season Spend	Number of Licensed Resident Hunters	Total Annual Spend All Archers
2011/2012	1 of 38	\$1,335.54	26,114*	\$34,876,292
2017/2018	20 of 38	\$969.12	26,114	\$25,307,600
2024/2025**	38 of 38	\$703.58	26,114*	\$18,373,317

*Because exact numbers for licensed resident hunters are not published or available, the known number of hunters for the year in which the data was collected was utilized for all estimates (26,114).

**Numbers for 2024/2025 are extrapolated based upon an assumption that baiting could be banned statewide, which could result in another 27.4% per archer decrease in reported per season spend.

Firearm (Rifle) Deer Resident Hunter Numbers for Comparison

Year	Reported Per Season Spend	Number of Licensed Resident Hunters	Total Annual Spend All Rifle Hunters
2011/2012	\$643.04	40,904*	\$26,302,908
2017/2018	\$657.07	40,904	\$26,876,791

*Because exact numbers for licensed resident hunters are not published or available, the known number of hunters for the year in which the data was collected was utilized for all estimates (40,904).

Report Referenced & Utilized for Figures: [ND Game & Fish Hunter & Angler Spending Report \(2017/2018\)](#)