

In Favor of House Bill 1151 – Relating to baiting deer for hunting

Dear Committee Members:

As a landowner/rancher (since 1882) and an outfitter (since 2000) in North Dakota, I strongly disagree with the North Dakota Game and Fish controlling the public's access to bait for deer. We plant many food plots, have plenty of bait stations, and care for the wildlife as much as we can when mother nature doesn't cooperate. The management of the wildlife that roam across our property is a huge priority, which leads to plenty of opportunity for the sportsman because of the improved health we provide for them. We have increased the health of our deer herds over the last decade through management and baiting.

The bait stations we use typically would have a max of a dozen deer at any given time, but more than likely 2-3 is more normal. Without baiting for deer, we would not be able to get photos from our deer herd. Without these photos, we would not be able to target mature deer that need to be harvested. Without being able to target the right deer, many deer would get harvested prematurely and we would not have control over our deer herd. On the flip side, we would lose over 75% opportunity for these targeted deer and also lose interest from the sportsman from less excitement in the field. If we lose this excitement from sportsmen and younger hunters, the revenue coming into the game and fish would decrease. The deer would also not have the best living environment due to the decrease in funding, therefore have a lack of control on the herd.

I disagree that baiting influences CWD. Baiting is usually done in the summer/fall by sportsman when deer are more spread out. If there are only a handful coming into a baiting area, how do you control the wintering of deer herds. Our deer herds have wintered together of more than several hundred in a group without any bait every year. This is a natural thing for deer to group up in the winter around hay yards, shelterbelts, or crop fields in huge numbers. Shouldn't this be the bigger concern? This is a natural trait deer do in the winter is herd up. Why is there even a discussion about having a few deer together of bait when they naturally group together in extremely large numbers each season on their own?

Please consider joining landowners/sportsman and be in favor of HB 1151.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Doan

Black Leg Ranch/Rolling Plains Adventures