

Chairman Porter and Committee members,

My name is Dave Brandt from rural Buchanan and I appreciate your consideration of few of the many reasons I oppose House Bill 1151.

First, proponents of this bill are claiming the NDGF lacks data proving that baiting increases the spread of CWD. While I believe this is as best misleading given the volume of compelling information collected across North America to date, even if I were to give on that particular point, I have to ask myself whatever happened to basic logic? As my Gramps use to say when I was a kid, David, sometimes you just need to use that muscle between your ears to figure things out. Logic dictates that the longer you expose animals to a laterally transmissible disease, the higher the probability is that they will get it. Yes, some deer congregate naturally at certain times of the year, but that is typically after hunting season and through the winter and that is something beyond our control, but lets just say it is about 4 months. Baiting unnaturally brings deer very close together and typically begins before hunting season and often runs through its end, lets just say another 3-4 months even knowing that many hunters bait year-round to retain animals. Couple this with the fact that not all deer yard up during winters but are drawn to bait artificially placed on the landscape and I fail to see how anyone can say with a straight face that baiting for hunting does not have the potential to increase the spread of disease. You are increasing their exposure to risk period and that matters to me! Which leads me to my second point.

Second, many hunters seem to think that any deer they see on the landscape equals a tag. Not true. Game and fish is mandated to manage the deer herd for all North Dakotans and that means only a portion of the deer can ever be removed. In other words they must maintain a baseline population number. Hunters work on the harvestable surplus of that population, as do coyotes, mountain lions, disease like EHD, natural death, weather, Fords, Chevys, Semi trucks, etc. Every deer or elk that dies from CWD is equal to one less tag in the long run since it comes off that surplus. Because of this, if or when the CWD infection rate becomes 30% like it is in some states, that equals 30% fewer tags issued to hunters.

Third, who should be responsible for making the decisions regarding how to best manage our wildlife resources? If you have not heard of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation by now, I'm sure you will at some point in the discussion of this bill. Some people incorrectly believe it was something a bunch of overeducated dudes sat down and laid out to be used for the future. Actually it is a retrospective look at why North America's wildlife and natural resources are the envy of the rest of the world and why we have been able to enjoy and participate in those resources since their precipitous declines that occurred through the 1930's. It's authors looked at the reasons for those declines and what didn't work in other countries and also noted practices from places that did have success and borrowed those ideas as well. They derived 7 principals

believed to be responsible for our great success story that have been used to guide wildlife and natural resource management incredibly well for the last few decades. Among those principals is that science plays a key role in managing wildlife and that wildlife populations are sustained and scientifically managed by professionals in government agencies. The reason this is critical to the model is because there were times in the past and in other countries where this was not the case and the resources suffered notably. House Bill 1151 is 180 degrees opposite that principal. It seeks to circumvent the management authority of North Dakota's Game and Fish professionals and puts the wishes of a minority group above the welfare of all North Dakotan's deer.

I urge you to give House Bill 1151 a DO NOT PASS vote.

Thank you