



North Dakota House of Representatives

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COMMITTEES:

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Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee.

Dori Hauck, Representative for District 36 and I am here today on behalf of District 36 as well as myself, a private landowner, in opposition to HB1151.

I am a landowner and come from a hunting family. My family is still a hunting family. My niece, nephew, dad, brother-in-law and friends from Texas and Louisiana come every fall. My friends from the Fargo area come every spring. When some outdoor enthusiasts began the archery and trap shooting at the school in Richardton-Taylor, I helped get those programs promoted within the school and the community. Every opportunity each of us can take to spend more time away from devices is a great opportunity!

Over the past 45 years, I have listened to the stories of the great hunters – my dad and his friends – and some of those stories I have heard so many times I can recite them word for word. There is not one story from one of these hunters that starts out with “I was stalking a bait pile”. This bill is removing the SPORT from the sport of hunting. You win some and you lose some.

I’ve taken some time to visit with a variety of hunters and landowners regarding this proposed legislation.

The current language of this bill does not set any parameters leading me to believe the bill authorizes 365 days a year to bait. Let me suggest a possible outcome. As a landowner, I will bait as early as possible drawing the majority of the deer and pheasants to my land because certainly we all know that is the purpose – training animals where the easiest meal is. As a landowner, I have private property rights and the right to keep hunters off of my property. So, I will bait the wildlife and prevent youth and adults from hunting.

I was reminded by the hunters I visited with that we have conservation efforts available via the Conservation Reserve Program, Private Land Open To Sportsmen and food plots which could be considered at baiting. These efforts encourage the wildlife of all shapes and sizes to remain wild while providing a more native type of food source. These options let wildlife to be wild giving many more individuals the opportunity to participate in the SPORT of hunting. This is the sport of hunting as I know it.

Ranchers have experienced what happens when a concentration of deer begin congregating and standing on stacked hay. This hay is then fed to beef cattle which increases the odds there will be aborted calves. Concentrating wildlife promotes the chance of spreading disease.

Each of us is a steward of the land. As a landowner, I am a temporary steward of the land in my care as it will not be mine forever. At no time do I own any of the wildlife. They are not my deer or my pheasants even though I see them every day. Young hunters might be disappointed if they don’t fill their tag on the first trip. In the true spirit of hunting, this is something we all need to learn is perfectly acceptable and use that miss to hone skills as a hunter and become a GOOD SPORTSMAN over time. The misses make great stories and the success so much more meaningful.

I encourage you to support the SPORT of hunting and vote No on this proposed legislation, HB1151.

Dori Hauck



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