

Dear Energy and Natural Resource Committee,

My name is Ty Hanson from Berthold ND. I am writing you today in support of HB 1175.

The ND Department of Trust Lands currently manages 706,600 acres on behalf of the citizens of ND. 19,930 of those acres are currently inaccessible to the public for recreational purposes. This number should be 0, state land should be available for all citizens to enjoy. Federal lands have successfully allowed recreation and agricultural use to coexist for decades, there is no reason state land can't be operated the same.

Most tenants take excellent care of the land they operate on (their livelihood depends on it), however there are some cases where tenants treat the state land as their own private property and abuse the ability to hinder public access. I personally witnessed this in the fall of 2021. I harvested a deer while hunting state land, less that 48 hours later the land was legally shut down for public access. The tenant was also hunting this land, and had the public access shut down because I shot that deer. This same section has been illegally posted over the years with "posted" and "no trespassing signs."

Access is the biggest issue facing ND hunters today. This bill would protect the right to access over 700,000 acres of excellent hunting access.

Thank you for your time,

Ty Hanson