



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
HOUSE BILL 1175
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE
COMMITTEE
JANUARY 20, 2023**

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resource Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. I'm here today representing our 1,500 members in 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's clubs across North Dakota that make up the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

NDWF supports HB 1175. The Wildlife Federation has a strong track record on working on access issues facing sportsmen and women, finding common ground with agriculture partners, and securing our outdoor traditions for future generations. The bill would guarantee access to over 706,000 acres of land that is managed by the Department of Trust Lands. We recognize that the main purpose of these acres is to generate funds for the education trusts, we also believe that allowing low-impact activities like hiking, hunting, and fishing would not be detrimental to generating funds. Other states, including Montana, have an access fee associated for these types of activities. The North Dakota Wildlife Federation would be open to discussions with the Department of Trust Lands and other partners on adding additional revenue sources.

Survey after survey shows a lack of access to quality lands as the primary reason sportsmen and women give up hunting and don't purchase a license. We strongly believe that any opportunity to increase access should be seriously considered and we welcome the open dialogue that this bill will bring.

We urge a Do Pass on HB 1175.