



House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on HB 1224

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Casey Anderson Wildlife Division Chief
January 19, 2023

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Casey Anderson, Wildlife Division Chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department). I am testifying today in opposition of HB 1224.

As written, this bill would exclude anyone recovering a big game animal from carrying archery equipment or a firearm unless they would be the handler of a dog that is being used to recover that animal. This bill also would create legal confusion for hunters, dog handlers, landowners, and the Department as it would conflict with N.D.C.C. 20.1-01-19, when posted land may be entered, and 20.1-01-20, entering posted land with gun or firearm prima facie evidence of intent to hunt game. The Department worked with the blood tracking dog group extensively to allow the use of dogs for big game recovery, and it was a fairly clear consensus among all working on this language at the time that a gun would not be carried. The Department has not heard anything from the group about wanting the ability of carrying a firearm during this activity. Therefore, the Department is asking the committee to send a recommendation of do not pass for HB 1224 as written.