

HB 1377

Mr. Chairman and members of Energy and Natural Resources

I am Glenn Moen from Grand Forks; I enthusiastically support this bill.

I didn't grow up in a hunting family. So, after getting married my brother-in-law invited me to join his party. That was the fall of 1983, I have been hooked ever since. So, the first thing I put on my Microsoft lookout calendar every year is the opening day of hunting season.

Since I started hunting, I have hunted with a variety of parties over the years. My party has evolved into a family affair, kind of like a family reunion every fall. I talking to friends and acquaintances when hunting season comes around almost every one, I have talked to hunts in a party of family or friends.

So as a kid me and my brothers & cousins all spent our summers living with my aunt and uncle working on the "FARM". My cousins are now the farmers.

So, every fall our party gather at the farm for this family affair called hunting. We know the area and the neighbors that are still living on their farms. Over the years our party has expanded from myself, brother and cousin to included my step brother, nephew and son-in-law. I am looking forward to when my grand son can join us. My son-in-law says he just loves deer sausage. One of the reason our party hunts is so we can drop off our deer each year at Weber's Meats to have the smoked polish sausage made.

In all my years of hunting I have talked every year with fellow hunters and everyone but two hunt in a party. Both people who don't party hunt own prime hunting land and sit in a deer stand and wait for one to walk under the stand. Party hunting is a way of life for almost all hunters. In our party we share equally the fruits of our labor.

As some us are getting older its getting harder to walk through the cattails, so the old guys end up being the posters at the end of the cattails were the deer run out.

I get called by headhunters several times a year. I have chosen to stay in North Dakota over the years and one of the reasons is gathering with my hunting party every fall. I mentions this as I am hearing and reading all the efforts the state is making to retain and try attract people to the state. So, by passing this bill you will make hunting even more attractive to those considering leaving or coming.

A party hunting bill comes up about every three sessions. So when those opposing the bill come in after the supports to speak some of them will be game and fish telling why this great North Dakota hunting tradition is so bad. They will be making up what if stories that don't make any sense.

1-Party hunting will limit opportunities for other to get licenses, but the license is issued by a lottery system. So, you can't get license if you don't get drawn.

2-If party hunting is so bad why does Minnesota still doing it. Since I live in a border town. I have a lot of friends and co-workers that hunt in Minnesota who all love legal party hunting.

3-Game and fish use hunting as a game management tool to control deer populations. SO, say after the surveys they figure they need to harvest 75,000 deer. They will likely lottery off 100,000 licenses. Since North Dakota used to have about a 75% success rate. The 75% is in the range of the average hunter

success rate of all the parties hunting in North Dakota. I don't accept their story that party hunting limits opportunities.

4-They will likely say something like some of the party members can sit at home and not be out with the party hunting and I agree this should be addressed. I seem to recall in past party hunting bills the bills said something like the party must be in close proximity to each other. I suggest you modify this bill to add this.

I request you give this bill a do pass.

Thank you for your time. I will attempt to answer any questions you may have.