



**NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY  
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
HOUSE BILL 1377  
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 3, 2023**

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

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

The North Dakota Wildlife Federation opposes HB 1377. NDWF, over our 85 years, has a long track record of defending against party hunting in North Dakota.

North Dakota's deer population is still hurting from the EHD outbreak of 2021. Disease, coupled with hard winters and a lack of quality habitat in the state have reduced deer numbers. North Dakota's 2022 deer season had 64,200 licenses available to hunters, down 8,000 from 2021. This bill would reduce the long-term number of available licenses to general lottery hunters.

Allowing party hunting could reduce an individual's chances of getting a license in two major ways. First, allowing party hunting will lead to more filled tags; as successful hunters get their deer, they would undoubtedly help their friends or family fill their tag. If more people fill their tags every season, this will lead to an overall decrease in the overall number of deer gun licenses. After all, Game and Fish needs to maintain the herd, and if more deer are suddenly being harvested, the number of licenses available will reflect that.

We urge a Do Not Pass on HB 1377.