

Testimony in support of: North Dakota House Bill 1538-A Bill for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 20 of section 20,1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code

Date: 02/02/2023

Submitted by: Jeremy Wentz

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To: Representative Porter and Members of the North Dakota House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

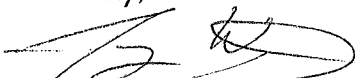
As an avid angler and outdoorsman, I am writing to voice my support for your House Bill 1538.

In my opinion the financial burden the current legislation on tournaments and tournament fees has placed on tournaments that are held within our state is much too restrictive. The result has been that the major tournament organizations have chosen to hold their events in other surrounding states that have much less restrictive fee structures. The loss of tournaments in our state affects our local communities with loss of tourism revenues and also affects me personally by reducing the number of events available for me to participate in each year.

In addition to the loss of major tournament organizations and the revenues they would bring to the local communities, I also believe the current tournament fees is a key component on why ND does NOT have a Student Angling League. As we know, target shooting, archery and angling are three of the fastest growing High School sports in America. ND students are extremely committed to Trap shooting and Archery Target shooting...why can't we help them be committed to Student Angling? One of ND Game and Fish's mottos are to get the youth involved, well let's get them involved and remove this roadblock on student angling.

It is for these reasons that I overwhelmingly support Bill 1538. This Bill revising the language in the current legislation is important to the local communities in which these events are held and to the future of the sport that means so much to me personally. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,



Jeremy Wentz