

Dear North Dakota Legislators,

I am in opposition to HB 1151. As a North Dakota Resident and outdoorsman, I think the ND Game and Fish department should retain the responsibility of determining if baiting should be allowed in the hunting of certain species or geographic zones within North Dakota based on disease concerns, etc. Baiting can congregate deer and other animals which can spread disease (CWD, etc.) through closer, more direct contact. This department already manages wildlife across the state and they are the experts when it comes to actively managing wildlife populations. There are many instances across the country where captive deer herds transmit CWD and other diseases to other deer due to close proximity and poorly fenced enclosures.

If we pass this bill, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department will essentially lose a "tool" from their toolbox regarding the management of disease outbreaks in wildlife populations. The people who work for the NDGF department are the experts when it comes to wildlife management, and I believe we should treat them as such.

Best Regards,

Andrew Lindmeier