

To the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

As a North Dakota hunter, I believe strongly in ensuring hunting privileges are available to current and future generations. I believe science should be the underpinning of wildlife policy. To this end, I oppose HB1151 as it is a direct attempt to circumvent the ability of wildlife professionals to manage our North Dakota deer herd, based on the best available science. The best scientific evidence to-date shows "Although important gaps in the scientific literature exist, current information is sufficient to conclude that providing food to wildlife through supplemental feeding or baiting can negatively impact species health and represents a non-natural arena for disease transmission and preservation." Here is the research article where the authors make this statement:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2013.11.010>

We are in the early years of CWD in North Dakota but the time to act is now. We can slow the spread of CWD and keep it at manageable levels so that it doesn't negatively impact our hunting opportunities. Let's not follow in the footsteps of other states that ignored the urgency of CWD and ultimately suffered the consequences.

Sincerely, Alex Rischette