

Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Please Oppose HB 1151.

We entrust the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to manage our wildlife and habitat in this State. Why would you allow a law to pass that prohibits their ability to manage this limited resource?

I have lived in North Dakota for 24 years. When I first came here fresh out of college for work, I had no intention to stay. However, I fell in love with this states wildlife, and landscape. I could have much better paying jobs and career advancements in other parts of the country, but I chose to stay in North Dakota because of the hunting and fishing opportunities it provided. In those 24 years I've watch habitat acres decline exponentially due to agriculture expansion and oil development. As such, wildlife numbers have also declined. Deer are forced to seek shelter and food resources (especially in the winter) on ever smaller parcels of habitat. In 2009, another threat to our wildlife resource was discovered – Chronic Wasting Disease. Fast forward 13 years, and the disease has rabidly expanded across the state. If you allow this bill to pass you will be responsible for outlawing a management tool wildlife professionals have shown is a simple and financially responsible.

As I read the testimony of those in favor of this bill, I see anecdotal stories and selfish reasons why baiting is a necessity to their hunting experience. CWD is proven to be 100% deadly. CWD is proven to have no cure. So, what happens when another 10-13 years pass and CWD is allowed to continue its exponential spread? Pathology research on a wide variety of diseases has proven that most diseases manifest and mutate as they are allowed to spread from one host to the next. Do you really want to be the person that votes for a law that strips or wildlife experts from using a simple and financially responsible management tool? Do you really want to approve of a bill that could facilitate the destruction of our deer, moose and elk populations?

There are numerous, and ongoing, research projects that have proven unequivocally that baiting contributes to the spread of disease in wildlife populations. There is also research that has demonstrated that there are indirect impacts to other species. The University of Mississippi Deer Lab recently posted research results demonstrating that not only does supplemental feeding of deer concentrate animals and promote the transmission of disease, but they also discovered increased exposure to aflatoxins, gastrointestinal parasites, and ticks. Aflatoxin contamination is a toxic mold that was found in supplemental feed after only 8 days of weather exposure. It was found in 100% of bait piles (and feeders) after only 10 days of weather exposure during the months of July - November. Deer were not the only animals impacted. Non-target animals that fed on the bait piles, such as pheasant, turkey, and many non-game birds were found ill or deceased after consuming contaminated feed. You can read more by going to ["The effects of year-round supplemental feeding of white-tailed deer" by Miranda Hsiang-Ning Jacobson Huang \(msstate.edu\)](#)

Please appose HB 1151.

Thank you,

Kerry Whipp