

I am providing testimony in opposition to HB 1151. As a hunter of more than 50 years in North Dakota I am deeply concerned with this bill and the long term negative effects of this type of legislation to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (ND G&F). This type of potential legislative over reach is dangerous to the function of the ND G&F and their ability to manage wildlife and wildlife diseases and threats. I believe North Dakota has an excellent Game and Fish Department with highly educated, experienced, and dedicated staff. Game and Fish personnel are professional biologists, veterinarians, and wildlife epidemiologists who are fully capable of making decisions and taking proactive actions to protect our wildlife resources in order to protect and enhance the great hunting and fishing heritage we enjoy in North Dakota.

In addition I am a landowner in North Dakota with over 1000 acres of agriculture land which has excellent wildlife habitat. We have developed this habitat over many years of tree plantings, upland habitat development, all which required hard physical labor. I value the wildlife on my land and do not want CWD to spread and infect the deer which we love having on the landscape and enjoy hunting.

I further believe that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is an increasing and viable threat to our states deer, elk, and moose populations. CWD is expanding in both number of states and prevalence throughout the United States and is now in 30 states, 5 Canadian Provinces, Norway, and South Korea. CWD has been identified by wildlife managers, conservation groups, and researchers as one of the greatest threats to the future of deer and deer hunting and other large cervids such as elk and moose. This disease and the ability of ND G&F to manage this disease is so much bigger and more important than someones ability to bait deer.

I am asking you to please allow the Game and Fish Department to manage wildlife and wildlife diseases. I am asking you to vote no on HB 1151 for the future of North Dakota wildlife and our treasured hunting heritage.

Thank you allowing me to testify on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Jack Sorum