

March 14, 2023

To the Senate Natural Resources Committee

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Wade Williamson and I live in Mountrail County. I am a retired farmer/rancher, and now my primary goal is habitat development and wildlife conservation.

I fully support HB 1151 and ask your support because of the following reasons:

1. I do not condone the North Dakota Game & Fish Department's policy of letting wildlife starve... Especially since farming, ranching, oil production, urban sprawl, etc., has depleted wildlife habitat and food sources.
2. Just like in people, healthy wildlife are better at not contracting diseases than poorly nourished animals.
3. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is not always fatal, especially in healthy animals.
4. Deer are gregarious animals and have always congregated and will continue to do so.
5. At present, the protocols of wildlife agencies of banning baiting, banning of feeding of wildlife, shooting of herds, banning of transport of hunted animals, etc., has not been effective in stopping the spread of CWD.
6. There are a lot of federal funds associated with monitoring and surveillance of CWD, that I feel is a driving force of our North Dakota Game & Fish Department! I really wish that this money was designated for research and cure, because monitoring and surveillance does very little good, but instead it creates hysteria.
7. If a cure for CWD is found, the only way to implement it will be through feeding of wildlife.
8. One of the amendments that would stop the feeding of wildlife would be detrimental to our pheasant population along with other non-game species.
9. A bill similar to this, that would stop the feeding of wildlife was before the legislature approximately four sessions ago and was defeated. The North Dakota Game & Fish Department was in support of that bill. I truly feel that the North Dakota Game & Fish Department has tried to use CWD as an excuse to ban baiting and feeding of wildlife, through a piecemeal approach by the director's proclamation.

If you have any questions for me please call my cell phone. The number is 701-898-0054. Thank you for your consideration. Please vote yes on original HB 1151.