

Andrew Dusek

HB1151 testimonial

### In Support of HB1151

I am writing in support of HB1151 as I see supplemental feeding during the ND big game hunting season as a very necessary tool in regard to not only the heritage of hunting in our great state but as a very important tool on the way many sportsmen manage big game herds.

We've seen a great loss of habitat over the years negatively affecting our big game herds and the interest in the upcoming future of our hunting heritage and I firmly believe restricting feeding during the season will only cause more damage to our beloved sport and way of life. CWD has been the main reason why our game and fish has decided to implement restrictions on feeding which I believe their current policy of an overall ban of feeding practices in units with infected animals is not in compliance with the views and private land rights of many outdoorsman and herd managers.

Just recently state wide CWD test results were released and we have once again seen very few infected animals test positive in units in which feeding restrictions have already been in place for years which proves their method of banning feeding during the hunting season has proven to be a failure. They have suggested things such as food plots are a safer alternative but not everyone has the ability or funds to practice this option and there is really no difference in animal contact if i.e. five deer eat off one growing corn cob verse the same five eating it out of feeder.

I believe hunters, land, and herd managers on private land should be able to practice as they see fit. Big game animals by nature are contact animals and the restriction of feeding during the hunting season will do nothing to stop the spread of any disease amongst herds. I feel as if not being allowed to feed during the hunting season will only hurt herds more. Hunting is my life, it's how I feed my family lean rich protein, the benefits of supplemental feeding to maintain a healthy herd far outweigh any negative outcome that is being pressed upon us by the game and fish department in their relentless pandemonium that we are on this "verge" of a major epidemic, its simply not true.

Test results of CWD have proven to be so low and so sporadic, there's really no way a simple practice such as supplemental feeding could ever be the cause, if anything it's the solution as most people using feed are ensuring that their herd has the necessary nutrition to survive our harsh inclement climate during and after the season. In conclusion, I am in support of HB1151, because I do not believe our self-funded game and fish department should be able to make such bans and restrictions as to how we practice hunting and herd management on North Dakota Private lands, its overreach at its purest.