

To Whom it may concern

I am writing to encourage the committee to offer up the recommendation of Do Not Pass on House Bill 1151. The North Dakota Game and Fish is charged with managing the deer in North Dakota for all residents of the state, weather they hunt or not. Removing their ability to ban baiting of deer as a tool to combat CWD and other diseases, will only benefit a small portion of the population. I believe the NDGF biologist are best suited to make this decision, based on the best science available. In 2020 we were encouraged to wear masks and not gather together because of covid. CWD is spread in much the same way, close contact with an infected individual. Unlike covid, CWD is always fatal. Creating bait sites and artificially congregating deer together in areas that CWD is present is not a good idea. The latest testing results from last years deer head collection by the Game and Fish shows that the number of positive results for CWD is stable. Mean while the number of hunting units is increasing. Again, I urge you to let the North Dakota Game and Fish manage the deer herd in our state with the best science available, and recommend a Do Not Pass for HB1151. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Dirk McWhorter