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BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

March 15, 2023

Senator Dale Patten, Chair
North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
600 E Boulevard Ave,
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Boone & Crockett Club Opposition to HB 1151

Dear Senator Patten:

We write in opposition to HB 1151 and respectfully request you vote “No” when this bill comes to a vote in your committee.

Wildlife management decisions in North Dakota, especially those relating to the spread of disease, should be based on the best available science. We believe the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is best equipped to make those decisions. North Dakota Game and Fish Department personnel understand the ever-evolving threats to wildlife species, such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and bovine tuberculosis (Tb). This legislation would harm the ability of the agency to effectively fulfill their mission to “protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat for sustained public consumptive and non-consumptive use.”

While we can appreciate the Authors’ desire to take actions designed to ensure the longevity of North Dakota’s public trust big game resources, we would reiterate that the Department, using existing management authority, has utilized baiting restrictions in areas where conservation challenges, including where disease transmission is of highest risk, are most pressing. Recognizing their timely and effective actions on this front, we maintain that HB 1151’s attempt to strip the North Dakota Game and Fish Department’s authority is counterproductive.

It is imperative that the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the agency specifically established by this legislature to protect the fish and wildlife resources of North Dakota, keep their authority to regulate baiting.

We respectfully request you oppose HB 1151.

Sincerely,

Tony Schoonen, CEO
Boone and Crockett Club

CC: Senator Jeffery J. Magrum, Vice Chairman
North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources