

Dear Senate Energy and National Resources Committee,

Please consider voting against HB1151 as it is written. I certainly understand that there needs to be a very fine line between Politics, Policy, and Science for everyone to be successful, but this bill is not in the best interest of the deer population or the folks that enjoy pursuing deer in ND. The topic of baiting deer rules and the science behind CWD is not something that should be handled by the legislature. You have much bigger issues to discuss and spend your time on. Instead, you have trusted in the past, and should continue to trust the NDGF with topics like this. You have invested millions of dollars and hired experts to manage the wildlife in ND, please continue to leave the rule making authority with them.

The NDGF has been tasked with managing all of the wildlife in North Dakota, and overall, they continue to do an excellent job, based on what I am seeing in the several hours that myself and my family spend in the outdoors each year. I know they aren't going to please everyone and they are also struggling with the decreasing amount of habitat and other uncontrollable things that impact big game management in ND. This specific topic is actually fairly embarrassing and after reading through many of the testimonies that were given already, it's challenging to hear that people, including youth, have indicated that they have to "bait" game to make hunting easy and make ethical harvests. I would agree that shooting a deer over a bait pile does create some controllable items, but anyone's testimony that youth need baiting to harvest deer is completely inaccurate, and in fact, a lazy response to this serious topic. I would also note that the issuance of a deer tag in North Dakota **IS NOT A GUARANTEE** to have a successful hunt or harvest an animal. It's a license that allows the tag holder to pursue game based on the regulations that are made and maintained by the NDGF.

Again, I know that there is a very fine line of where this bill lands and what side of the equation that folks may be on. I'm also sure that you are feeling pressure from your constituents to vote one way, or another. That is what you elected to do. However, you do need to consider in this situation that if you decide that politics and policy should be voted ahead of science, you are not only putting our deer herd in jeopardy, but you are creating a very difficult process to get your legislation over turned in the future, when CWD continues to spread.

On a final note, if you are a "Yes" vote on HB1151, you absolutely must consider removing the verbiage of the baiting volume and proximity to the property line. The NDGF Game Wardens and our other state law enforcement individuals are already understaffed and have more area than they can cover. **WE ABSOLUTELY DO NOT NEED THEM** responding to calls about folks putting out too much bait for big game or having them become part of a neighboring landowner quarrel over the proximity to the property line. This would be a **COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME and RESOURCES** for law enforcement.

Sincerely,

Brenton Hell

ND Outdoorsman and Property Owner