

To Members of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

I write to you in opposition to HB 1151.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) is charged with protecting, conserving and enhancing fish and wildlife populations and their habitat for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive uses. NDGF's ability to carry out that mission hinges on them having the authority to make and implement management decisions based on the best available information. I am opposed to any legislation, including HB 1151, that strips decision making and management authority from NDGF in matters of wildlife and fisheries management.

As a longtime North Dakotan and life-long hunter, angler, and outdoor recreationist, I have come to respect that no matter how NDGF's decisions affected my personal fishing and hunting opportunities, those decisions were in the interest of ensuring the well-being of our State's fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of all North Dakotan's, present and future.

Please give HB 1151 a Do Not Pass. Let our State's fish and wildlife professionals do their jobs.

Thank you.

Terry Shaffer