

My name is Dylan Bauer and I want to express my opposition to HB 1151 and the intended actions of this bill. I am a lifelong sportsman of North Dakota and value the opportunities which hunting, and fishing allow in ND.

North Dakota House Bill 1151 would severely undermine the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's (NDGF) authority and ability to manage deer and deer hunting with the best-available science. Specifically, the bill removes the authority from NDGF to issue rules or adopt a policy or practice prohibiting the baiting of deer for lawful hunting. The bill, and the removal of management authority from NDGF, is a direct attempt to undermine chronic wasting disease (CWD) management efforts in the state.

The practice of baiting and its role in deer management have grown in terms of controversy and complexity in recent years. Baiting increases density around a single food source and therefore increases the potential for direct and indirect contact among wildlife specifically deer. The NDGF has used baiting bans as a management tool to reduce the risk and spread of CWD. The supporters of this bill cannot legitimately prove that these efforts have NOT been significant at reducing the spread of CWD in North Dakota.

Wildlife management decisions, and especially disease management decisions, should remain in the hands of professional wildlife managers. I ask you to vote NO on HB 1151 and keep management of North Dakota's wildlife in the hands of the professionals and biologists.

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