

I am writing my testimony in opposition of HB 1151.

I have been a North Dakota resident my whole life and my family has lived in this state for 5 generations each one of them being hunters. I have grown to love the natural resources that we are so fortunate to have in this state. HB 1151 would have dramatic impact on our game and fish agency from making decisions and putting in place laws to better our natural resources. Growing up I wanted to be a biologist more than anything, I went to college at the University of North Dakota to obtain a wildlife biology degree to have an impact on the things that I care most about, the wildlife that call our state home. This bill would hinder and set a dangerous precedent going forward that the game and fish will not have lawful grounds to make other decisions and laws. Biological decisions should be made by professionals who have dedicated their whole lives to bettering resources and have the resources best interest at heart. The ban on baiting does not take away any opportunity from the public, the public still has every opportunity to hunt and take deer. The ban on baiting is a way to help slow the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease, if CWD gains a foothold in North Dakota this alone could take opportunity away from the sportsmen and women of North Dakota. I ask that you take into consideration, the consequences of this bill passing and CWD running rampant and unchecked through our deer herds.