

January 18, 2023

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095

RE: HB 1151

Dear Energy and Natural Resource Committee:

This letter is in strong support of HB 1151. My name is Travis Rinehart and I have hunted the great state of North Dakota since 2012. Our target game are white-tailed and mule deer but I've also had the pleasure of chasing upland game in your beautiful state.

North Dakota is often overlooked as a hunting destination but its truly blessed with quality trophy animals. Each year we strategically place trail cameras in July with hopes of catching a monarch buck snapshot by early October. And more often than not we are successful because of the use of bait.

Our hunting journal is chock-full of harvest memories from 2012 Curly Buck to 2014 Perfect Buck to 2016 Backer Buck to 2019 Bullberry Buck. The chase list goes on and on with Flattop, PJ, 60, Gregg, Sven, and Casper to name a few. I'm happy to report the North Dakota deer herd is healthy and bursting with world-class bucks!

All of these experiences are dependent on the use of bait. As the hunting season approaches we continue to use bait for a couple reasons. As an avid archery hunter I appreciate the fact of knowing the exact distance to my target. This provides the best opportunity to secure a clean kill shot and for my quarry to expire quickly. As the father to four children bait also provides increased success rate to my young hunters. The hunter as we know it faces extinction and its important we provide successful hunting opportunity to foster the passion our parents extended to us.

To recapitulate I strongly encourage you to support HB 1151 and keep providing quality hunting opportunity for the residents, non-residents, and youth of our Great Nation. Thank you for the consideration.

Professionally,

Travis Rinehart