

Senator Patten and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Phil Mastrangelo, a 24-year resident of North Dakota and also District 33. I'm testifying in opposition to HB 1151, the "deer baiting bill" as it is often called. I'm voicing my opposition for the following reasons:

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD), which is charged with the management of all of North Dakota's wildlife resources, relies on science as its guiding doctrine. Science is fact and facts should prevail in the decisions made regarding the management of all our wildlife resources.

The NDGFD's management plan for chronic wasting disease (CWD) follows a science-based template used by other state wildlife management agencies. Application of those CWD management plans are supported by a number of non-government entities including the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, the National Deer Association, and the Boone and Crocket Club.

The NDGFD are the wildlife experts, as such they should be allowed to make science-based decisions which are in the best interest of our statewide deer population. Passage of HB 1151 would severely restrict the NDGFD's ability to properly manage CWD. Therefore, I respectfully request a "Do Not Pass" vote on HB 1151.

Thank you.

Phil Mastrangelo