



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
HOUSE BILL 1014
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 2, 2023**

Chairman Patten and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

For the record, I am John Bradley, executive director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. I am here today on behalf of our thousands of members in 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's clubs across North Dakota that make up the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

The Wildlife Federation has a strong track record on working on access issues facing sportsmen and women, finding common ground with agriculture partners, and securing our outdoor traditions for future generations.

We welcomed the introduction of H.B. 1175 and knew that the discussion that it would start would likely outlive the bill itself. We firmly believe the Department of Trust Lands can and should be able to work with stakeholders to find a solution, independent of a legislative management study on this access issue.

We recognize that the main purpose of these North Dakota Trust Land acres is to generate funds for the education trusts, we also believe that allowing low-impact activities like hiking, hunting, and fishing would not be detrimental to generating funds and could be a potential source of new funding down the road. Access is the primary barrier for new hunters, and we believe the 19,930 acres that were posted closed during the 2022 hunting season, are valuable access opportunities that cannot be ignored.

The North Dakota Wildlife Federation is excited at the prospects of working with the Department of Trust Lands and other partners on securing access for North Dakota's hunters, while navigating the challenges that could arise to current lease holders. We hope this committee will let stakeholders discuss this issue with the Department staff and come to a solution.

We urge a do not pass on HB 1175.