



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
NORTH DAKOTA

**TESTIMONY OF BROCK WAHL
NORTH DAKOTA BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS
HOUSE BILL 1175
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE
March 2nd, 2023**

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

The North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers opposes this legislative management study regarding the posting of School Trust Lands.

We firmly believe the Department of Trust Lands should be able to work with stakeholders to find a solution, independent of the legislature.

We agree that the department needs to bring focus to a discussion around hunting access on North Dakota Trust Lands. Access is the primary barrier for new hunters, and we believe the 19,930 acres that were posted to hunting in the 2022 hunting season, are valuable access opportunities that cannot be ignored.

We recognize that the department's mandate is to generate funds for the 13 permanent education trusts. We agree with the Department that prohibited activities listed in North Dakota Century Code 15-08-19.4 are a detriment to the mission of generating funds. However, we also believe that access can be improved and preserved for hunters on trust lands without detracting from the department's mandate or their current and future lessees.

With the introduction of H.B. 1175 to the 68th assembly, we are pleased with the discussion it has generated on the utilization of trust lands for hunting. But we do not believe this bill will lead to an effective or efficient solution that works for the Department of Trust Lands and all stake holders.

We urge the committee to let the Department and North Dakotans go to work and find a solution together.

Do Not Pass HB 1175



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