



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY  
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
HOUSE BILL 1233  
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE  
COMMITTEE  
MARCH 2, 2023**

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. I'm here today representing our 1,500 members in 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's clubs across North Dakota that make up the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

NDWF supports House Bill 1233. The Wildlife Federation has a long history of supporting efforts to get more youth involved in the outdoors - hunting, angling, trapping. We fund youth fishing and hunting days, mentored hunts, and trap leagues across the state. HB 1123 would create a more uniform system for North Dakota's youth deer hunters. The bill would give 11-, 12-, and 13-year old's more time in the field, extending their season from the youth season into the regular gun season. The Federation supports these aspects of the bill.

One point of concern is around safety. In the youth early season, a youth hunter who is hunting under the apprentice license must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter serving the role of mentor. The Federation has heard concerns from our affiliates around that adult being allowed to hunt while also mentoring a non-hunter ed certified youth. We want to ensure a positive and safe experience for our youth hunters and are afraid that if the adult mentor was also hunting, his or her attention may not be solely focused on the youth hunter. We would ask the committee and the Department to investigate ways to ensure a safer experience for everyone partaking in the deer gun season.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We urge a Do Pass on HB 1233.