

HB1260

Chairman and committee members, I am Robert Timian a Bismarck resident. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB1260 with one suggested amendment, and that is to repeal 20.1-03-11 sub 7 e as with the passage of HB1260 it is no longer needed. 20.1-03-11 sub 7 e was originally passed at a time when there was no elk season around the south unit of Theodore National Park and elk numbers in the park were continuing to grow to the point that they were moving out of the Park and onto adjacent private property and owners wanted something done to address this. North Game Fish Department held several public meetings and also met privately with landowners. In short, a gentleman's agreement was reached that a bill would be introduced to allow the department to issue depredation permits to landowners around the Park and if passed the landowners would allow reasonable public access for elk hunters. Today, years later, the situation has changed, the Park has reduced the number of elk in the Park significantly and has implemented a plan to keep elk numbers in the Park within sustainable management levels. Ownership of land around the Park has changed over the years and along with some changes in opinion of elk and the gentleman's agreement of years past. HB1260 if passed with 20.1-03-11 sub 7 e removed, would create a one uniform law that would apply equally to all landowners seeking relief from elk depredation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,