



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS
NORTH DAKOTA**

**TESTIMONY OF BROCK WAHL
NORTH DAKOTA BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS
HOUSE BILL 1260
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE
MARCH 23, 2023**

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

The North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers supports the passage of HB 1260. We believe the North Dakota Game and Fish needs the appropriate tools to address localized, problematic elk populations. We also believe it is our responsibility as hunters, to ensure that landowners dealing with these problems have resources available to them to utilize. We think HB 1260 is a tool that can work to both of those ends.

It is common knowledge that effectively and efficiently controlling problematic elk populations is done directly through targeting antlerless cows in those specific populations. But that can't be done with a single landowner depredation tag. If populations are an issue, cow elk will need to be harvested at higher quantities and with higher success rates.

We strongly support the public access component and the willingness of the Game and Fish to utilize hunters as a tool. Because these elk are a public trust, hunters should be a part of this management tool and we believe access to those specific problematic populations fulfills the public access component, furthers management effectiveness, makes strides to strengthen landowner/hunter relationships and helps put elk meat in the freezer for all involved. We look forward to seeing the relationships this initiative will forge between hunters and landowners, and think this will benefit all parties involved.

We are confident that the Game and Fish will work with landowners to ensure equitable opportunity for hunter access that prioritizes respect for private property and ensures that this tool is productive and worthwhile into the future. We urge the committee, Do Pass.



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