



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS
NORTH DAKOTA**

**TESTIMONY OF BROCK WAHL
NORTH DAKOTA BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS
HOUSE BILL 1174
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE
January 16, 2025**

Chairman Porter and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

The North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers supports H.B. 1174, which would allow the Game and Fish Department to establish educational and community outreach programs. Current projections from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show a 4% increase in demand in the labor market for Wildlife Biologist and there is always a need for more Game Wardens to enforce the state's conservation laws.

By establishing these programs, where the public can see first-hand, what it means to be in a Wildlife Conservation career, we believe they're more likely to enter the career field where they may not have had an interest before.

Education is a key principle and a cornerstone of a democratic society. President Roosevelt stated, "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education." By establishing these programs, you will be arming the current and future generations with critical experiences and facts derived from science, which will shape future decisions and enable the protection of our precious wildlife resources.

We recommend a Do Pass on H.B. 1174.

Board of Directors
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