

Testimony of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
By Phil Mastrangelo (#1571)
HB 1236
HOUSE ENERGY and NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
January 24, 2025

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

For the record, I'm Phil Mastrangelo representing the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The Chapter is a professional organization comprised of over 320 members who are employed throughout North Dakota as wildlife biologists, land managers, educators, wildlife law enforcement officers, and natural resource administrators.

The Chapter is in opposition to HB 1236 for the following reasons:

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD), which is charged with the management of all of North Dakota's wildlife resources, relies on science as its guiding doctrine. Science is fact and facts should prevail in the decisions made regarding the management of all our wildlife resources.

The NDGFD's management plan for chronic wasting disease (CWD) follows a science-based template used by other state wildlife management agencies. Application of the CWD management plans are supported by a number of non-government entities including the National Deer Association, the Boone and Crocket Club, the Mule Deer Foundation, and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership which states "CWD is the biggest threat to the future of deer hunting."

The NDGFD are the wildlife experts, as such they should be allowed to make science-based decisions which are in the best interest of our statewide deer population. Passage of HB 1236 would severely restrict the NDGFD's ability to properly manage CWD. Therefore, the Chapter respectfully requests a "Do Not Pass" vote on SB 1236.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 1236.

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North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society