

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY  
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
HOUSE BILL 1236  
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 24, 2025

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

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF).

NDWF respectfully ask that you oppose House Bill 1236, a bill that strips the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDG&F) of their ability to use funds from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses to create management plans for chronic wasting disease. The NDG&F is the entity best suited to make science-based wildlife management decisions around wildlife disease and should accordingly retain the ability to use funds from hunting and fishing licenses to create management plans for wildlife.

Chronic Wasting Disease is a progressive, fatal, degenerative neurological disease that occurs in farmed and free-range deer, elk, caribou, and moose. It is a slow and progressive disease that has a long incubation period. The NDG&F's primary objective is to prevent its spread into new areas and keep prevalence low in areas where it already has been found. Retaining the ability of our fish and wildlife management experts to develop and execute wildlife management plans to stem the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease is therefore essential to preventing its introduction into new areas.

We ask that you reject this bad idea and allow the Game and Fish Department to do its duty to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use. We urge a Do Not Pass on HB 1236.