

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Testimony on HB 1237 (IN OPPOSITION)

Kurt Swenson, Beulah, ND District 33

Chairman Porter, Vice Chairs Anderson and Novak and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Kurt Swenson from Beulah. I am an avid outdoorsman, enjoying the pursuit of game that North Dakota offers us on our own property and that of neighbors and friends.

Each year we put great effort into developing and restoring wildlife habitat on our land and public lands in partnership with NDGF, we host hunts for youth pheasant opener, veterans' appreciation hunts and give permission to a significant number of hunters each year to enjoy our beautiful land it's bounty. In 2024, I would estimate we had volunteered our land for 20 out of state hunters.

In my personal experience with out of state hunting, this license cost is one of the smaller costs in pursuing out of state game, between hunting equipment, clothing, shells, vehicle depreciation, fuel, food, lodging and other. There is no need to reduce this cost by creating a season long license in lieu of the 2-week period, which can be purchased multiple times if desired.

HB 1237 removes an estimated \$173,000 of funding from the ND Game and Fish, risking funding of access and habitat improvements that are clearly needed based on the December 2024 Habitat and Access Summit held in Bismarck.

If the intent of this bill is to encourage out of state hunters to spend more time in North Dakota, we should 1st look to the results and messages of the Summit – Improving Access and Habitat are top priority – please put your legislative efforts there versus creating more competition for resident hunters on the states limited resources.

I respectfully ask you to vote DO NOT PASS vote on HB 1237.