



House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on HB 1237

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Casey Anderson, Chief Wildlife Division
January 24, 2025

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Casey Anderson, and I serve as the Wildlife Division Chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department). I am testifying today in opposition of HB 1237.

The Department is opposed to HB 1237 for two main reasons. First, it will have a fiscal impact to the Department with a loss of approximately \$173,000 per biennium as shown in the fiscal note. The reason it would have this affect is due to the current license structure which allows a nonresident to hunt the entire season, however, they need to purchase a new license every 14 days. This bill would essentially charge the same amount for an entire season license as a 14-day license currently. Secondly, the Department has heard over the last couple years from the public that the pressure for all hunting, particularly from nonresidents, is getting higher and opportunities to hunt are becoming more restricted. One of the more common complaints for this revolves around upland game (pheasant) hunting and nonresidents being too numerous or out competing residents for hunting spots. As you consider this bill the Department asks that you consider these reasons and give HB 1237 a do not pass recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I will take questions if you have them.