

01/22/2025

Dear Energy and Natural Resources Committee members

I am writing my testimony to support HB1325

Isn't it irresponsible and negligent to rely solely on a test that could create both social and economic fallout from the outcome of just one false positive CWD result?

According to multiple sources, ELISA - CWD, which is a test utilized by many agencies across the US, has a potential false positive rate anywhere between 5%-9.5% (depending on the source study). This could indicate that nearly one out of every ten tests is inaccurate and can lead to major and disastrous effects.

Relying on the results of a faulty test without a secondary confirmation source (such as necropsy) is negligent and can have severe consequences negatively impacting an otherwise healthy deer herd.

These consequences come in the form of a myriad of effects; added hunting restrictions, deer population reductions (either through increased tag allocations and harvest, and/or through culling), decreased genetic diversity, lower recruitment numbers (offspring), social disinterest in participation in hunting, economic impacts to communities and sporting goods revenue/taxes generated, dollars diverted away from beneficial programs (habit, food plots and other beneficial programs), etc.

Please vote yes on HB1325 to help ensure that our deer herds are getting fair representation before being enrolled into extreme management protocols enacted by our North Dakota Game and Fish department, simply all because of one potentially false positive test result.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Williamson
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