



North Dakota House of Representatives

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Good morning Mr. Chairman and Energy & Natural Resources committee,

My name is Matt Ruby, and I represent District 40 in Minot. I apologize for not being there in person, I didn't speak to the chairman in a timely manner to hold the bill and my son is having surgery this morning. Before you is HB 1325 which seeks to add transparency to the CWD testing information that is used to close down deer units to hunting over feed. We have had this discussion about CWD over the last couple sessions and I am not going to get into the questions about the prion theory. Instead of arguing the efficacy of the science being used, we are seeking to see the data and the slides.

When a deer is tested for CWD either through heads being turned in or testing dead deer found in the state, the first test is a screening test using the ELISA technique. If the screen tests a detection the IHC test is done. Both tests can confirm DETECTION of CWD in the lymph nodes, but a necropsy test is the only way to confirm INFECTION of CWD. A necropsy report would indicate, verify, and produce a picture of degrading parts of the myelin of the brain. Many hunters in the state are simply looking for the data used to not allow hunting over feed and having the slides available to the public is the least the department can do. I know there is a \$614,686 federal grant that was awarded to Game and Fish to be used for public outreach and education. One would think doing proper testing and having it available to the public would fall into any plan with that goal of educating the public and therein would be a good use of those funds.

We don't live in a "trust us we are from the government" era. Show us the slides and you would likely have more buy in. Whether you believe everything the department is putting out or not, I think most people would say there should be less focus on public persuasion and more focus on public education and transparency. Thank you, Chairman Porter. As I am not there, I can't stand for questions, but I would be happy to answer as much as I can next week.