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Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1325. My name is Cody Hilliard, and I am a lifelong North Dakotan and an advocate for responsible wildlife management. I strongly support this bill, which enhances transparency and public access to vital information on chronic wasting disease (CWD).

Adding the duty for the director of the Game and Fish Department to maintain and publicly share records of positive CWD detections for four years is a significant step forward in addressing this critical wildlife health concern. By including a microscopic slide of the prion and the necropsy report, this measure ensures that hunters, landowners, researchers, and the general public have access to detailed, science-based information.

This level of transparency builds trust between the Game and Fish Department and North Dakotans while fostering informed decision-making. It also supports ongoing research efforts by providing valuable data for understanding and combating CWD. Ensuring public access to this information aligns with our state's commitment to accountability and science-driven wildlife conservation.

HB 1325 also demonstrates North Dakota's leadership in adopting forward-thinking measures to manage wildlife diseases effectively. By making this information available, the state can better engage with its citizens, wildlife stakeholders, and researchers in addressing the challenges posed by CWD.

I respectfully urge the committee to give HB 1325 a "Do Pass" recommendation to strengthen wildlife conservation and maintain public confidence in our state's wildlife management efforts. Thank you for your time and consideration.