

HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Testimony in favor of HB 1470

Chairman Porter and members of the Committee:

My name is Nick Surma, and I am a resident of Lincoln, North Dakota. I submit this testimony in support of HB 1470. North Dakota enjoys some of the best hunting opportunities in North America. This is primarily due to North Dakota's exceptional wildlife habitat and hunter land access. However, as with everything, the price to sustain North Dakota's premier habitat and hunting opportunities has gone up and will continue to go up over time. As a hunter, I support modest increases in license fees, with the revenues from such increases going towards habitat and wildlife conservation and hunter land access efforts. This Bill helps accomplish these objectives.

I noticed a discrepancy in the bill that I would like to bring to the Committee's attention. Line 22 on Page 3 of the Bill increases the price of a nonresident waterfowl license from \$100 to \$120. Then, Line 16 on Page 4 of the Bill removes the word "statewide" and states that a nonresident waterfowl license is \$150. These provisions are conflicting.

As an avid waterfowl hunter, I advocate that nonresident waterfowl licenses be at least \$150. North Dakota attracts tens of thousands of nonresident waterfowl hunters each year due to its world-class waterfowl hunting opportunities. In fact, I'm going to make an educated guess that North Dakota is one of the top states in attracting nonresident waterfowl hunters. Given the significant number of nonresident hunters who travel to North Dakota for the sole purpose of taking advantage of the State's waterfowl hunting resources, I believe these hunters should pay an increased amount to help sustain waterfowl habitat and hunting access.

Thank you for considering my testimony and your efforts on HB 1470.