

Chairman Porter and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Bryan Jochim residing in Bismarck N.D District 47.

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1470 with the amendments that are forthcoming I believe.

The Game and Fish Department has not had a license fee increase in an exceedingly long time.

The Department had their Annual District Meetings across the State to hear the concerns from Resident Hunters. The Game and Fish Department hosted a Habitat and Access Summit to address the opportunities and concerns that came out of the district meetings. There was fact-based information presented by NDSU and Leadership from the Department of Game and Fish. The content was an effort to address the concerns from the district meetings. The opportunities presented and discussed require incremental funding to address Habitat investment and Access Programs for any licensed hunter in the state.

We have an influx of out of state hunters coming to our state to enjoy our great resource we have. There is a financial benefit to have that. I always ask the question why are they here? Their resource is not what it used to be and ours is great. Let us make sure we are protecting our resource for all and those who choose to come. We need to change licensing fees accordingly for investment to ensure we do not lose our resource as well.

Let us preserve our resource, protect our resource, and invest in the resource that we are so fortunate to enjoy.

Increase in fees provides investment to do that and supports the next generation.

I am asking for a DO PASS on HB1470.

Bryan Jochim