



February 5, 2025

Representative Todd Porter  
Chairman, House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Coteau AB Room  
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505

Representative Dick Anderson  
Vice Chairman, House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Coteau AB Room  
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: House Bill 1470 - *A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 20.1-03-12 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to hunting and fishing fees.*

Position: SUPPORT

Chairman Porter and Vice Chairman Anderson,

On behalf of Delta Waterfowl members, both in the state of North Dakota and across the United States, I want to thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 1470, legislation that that will update the suite of fees associated with hunting licenses, permits and tags through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Game and Fish).

For some background, Delta Waterfowl is the largest organization in North America dedicated to ducks and duck hunters. Founded at the famed Delta Marsh in Manitoba in 1911, with its United States headquarters here in Bismarck, North Dakota, Delta Waterfowl works to promote and protect the continuing tradition of waterfowl hunting across North America – including here in North Dakota.

State fish and wildlife agencies across the country and constantly being asked to do more with less, and in North Dakota, that is no different. This legislation has the ability to increase the overall funding for on-the-ground conservation efforts through the North Dakota Game and Fish by slightly increasing the price of the suite of both resident and non-resident hunting licenses for the first time in more than 25 years. This fee increase will help the department stabilize their fund balance while not pricing residents or non-residents out of hunting in North Dakota.

A modest, inflation adjusted price increase of the suite of licenses fees that the Game and Fish offers will allow them to not only add roughly \$5 million in funding each year, but will allow them to also tap into a 3-to-1 federal matching funds annually. The additional funding will go straight back into the core mission of the agency and allow them to better manage wildlife and their habitats while providing additional access and opportunities for the sportsmen and women of North Dakota to.

With a greater desire from the public for increased access and enhanced habitat on public lands, Game and Fish has been working hard to meet the needs of the sportsmen and women of the state, as well as the



countless individuals who travel to North Dakota each year to recreate. Game and Fish helps manage and oversee more than one million acres of Wildlife Management Areas and lands private lands enrolled in the PLOTS program. These are areas that both sportsmen and women, and well as wildlife, rely on for habitat enhancements and access. Additionally, they are managing a record number of lakes across the state, and this increase in funding will allow them to continue to do all of that in a responsible manner on behalf of North Dakota residents.

We look forward to working with members of this committee and the rest of the North Dakota legislature as this bill moves through the process. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly and we ask that you move this bill favorably out of committee.

Respectfully,

Cyrus Hunter Baird  
Senior Director of Government Affairs  
Delta Waterfowl Foundation