

SB 2137

If only deer could talk?

In all of this legislation the only perspective not being heard is the wildlife. As legislators your duty is to give a voice to our wildlife. Protect our state's resource, that is your duty as a trust protector of ND. You need to protect wildlife today, tomorrow and for 100 years. Ask yourself who benefits from the passing or not passing of this bill? All these hunters prefer to hunt over bait and that is a big change for them when they can't, I respect that. Does the ND Game and Fish benefit from the status quo, no. They win when our state wildlife win. Hunters who support this bill will win if you pass this bill and they will be able to hunt over bait, but wildlife in North Dakota will win if you allow the ND Game and Fish to manage our resources. Let our deer win.

Supporters of this bill use the words PRIVATE LAND a lot. We have lots of restrictions on private land. I live in the city and need to keep my lawn mowed. I can't pile up junk and need to be respectful of my neighbors. I can't make or sell drugs on my private land. We even have laws regarding managing water on private land.

The wildlife in our state belongs to North Dakota, not landowners. Yes, landowners are a great asset to hunters, and they benefit from being landowners by getting gratis tags to hunt deer, moose, elk and antelope.

I also understand that the NO BAITING is unfair, you can bait on one side of the highway but not the other. I would rather make baiting illegal for all of North Dakota then take away a tool being used to protect deer in North Dakota.

Who benefits? Who wins? This is the question we need to answer.