

My name is Nick Hill and I am in absolute opposition to SB 2137. Chronic wasting disease is a real danger to North Dakota's big game population. In the case of severe disease spread, the effects could be detrimental to local deer populations. Not only is this a huge problem for the animals, we do not know the extent of this disease's zoonotic capabilities. We need to reduce the spread of this disease for human sake as well.

To limit the North Dakota Game and Fish's ability to manage this disease would be a huge mistake. We need to keep this in the hands of the experts. This law is not about power, or limiting opportunities for the public. That has never been and will never be the goal of the North Dakota Game and Fish. This is about being healthy. Many hunters all across the state harvest deer every year, and they need to have the opportunity to not only see healthy deer populations, but to be able to harvest a healthy deer that does not have any signs of Chronic wasting disease.

This is a difficult situation and unfortunately it may come at the expense of certain hunter's ability to bait deer. However, we need to listen to the experts here. These are not people far away in Washington DC that we do not know or trust. These are people in our backyards, living in this state with us, trying to make the right choice for us. The folks at the North Dakota Game and Fish are exactly who we want to make this tough decision. Opposing this bill is the right thing to do, for our wildlife and for our people.