

Dear ND Legislature:

Allowing the baiting of deer in North Dakota is a clear risk to the health of deer in North Dakota. Encouraging the congregation of deer leads to increased risk of contracting Chronic Wasting Disease. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a prion disease that affects members of the Cervidae family. It is a contagious neurological disease that is believed to be spread through herds through direct and indirect contact. It is always fatal. The prions are capable of living in the environment for long periods of time, up to 2.2 years (Miller et al. 2004). Due to the ability of the prions to survive in the environment, indirect contact with deer has been shown to spread CWD.

It is highly important that the spread of CWD is mitigated and tracked in North Dakota to maintain a healthy deer population.

Please vote against this legislation to preserve the deer population in North Dakota for a healthy ecosystem and posterity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Lydia Wilson

Student and Wildlife Technician, UND Biology Department, May 2025

Miller, M. W., E. S. Williams, N. T. Hobbs, and L. L. Wolfe. 2004. Environmental sources of prion transmission in mule deer. *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 10:1003-1006.