

Hello,

I am in strong opposition to SB 2137.

First, why is it that we humans believe that wildlife should be provided feed? They are wild animals, let them be wild.

Second, supplemental feed/bait used for hunting, is not hunting. Using supplemental feed/bait, is no different from walking out in the pasture and shooting cattle feeding on a hay bale. This bill would allow wildlife to be treated much more as domesticated livestock, than wild animals.

Third, this bill violates every aspect of ethical game pursuit (fair chase). Hunters employing supplemental feed/bait have an unfair advantage over hunters who choose an ethical approach; I have experienced this first hand.

When I first started deer hunting, baiting, food plots, etc.... were not as common as they are today. Now that baiting and/or food plots are more common with many land owners (regardless of the legality) it privatizes a public resource. It does so, by drawing and commonly retaining wildlife in close proximity to the bait, food plot, etc.... This often leads to wildlife staying completely on privately owned land, almost the same as if they were domesticated livestock. This gives landowners or people baiting and ability to hoard our public wildlife resources.

Fourth, this bill also jeopardizes wildlife health, by enticing more wildlife to gather in higher concentration at a bait pile. This higher concentration of animals in one area promotes diseases, such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) to spread more easily. Degradation of herd health, also leads to further ecosystem damage.

I strongly oppose SB 2137 and encourage you to reject this and any bill that would allow feeding/baiting wildlife.

Josh G.

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