

Dear members of the Senate Ag committee, I ask for a do pass vote on SB 2137.

I believe the ability to supplementally feed year-round is beneficial to North Dakotas deer herds, and I believe having to stop during archery and rifle season (we live in restricted 3A2) is actually hurting our herds health.

Being able to use minerals and high protein sources of feed helps bucks be less run down after the rut, along with giving all deer more energy/fat reserves to make it through winter months. If I can provide supplemental feed all the way through, I won't have to start after it is almost too late post archery season. Those extra months of supplemental feed might give those deer the extra boost to save even a small percentage of winter killed deer in North Dakota. I ask you to look out for North Dakotas deer herds health for both the present and the future. If we don't have a herd to protect in 20 years, what is it worth trying to stop a disease that might POTENTIALLY be an issue. In the last 15 years herd numbers have reduced from the ability to support 149,000 deer tags to 55,000. This is almost a 200 percent reduction in deer living on the landscape, with little hope of getting substantial habitat back to support a large growth trend. If we continue this trend, what will future hunting opportunities look like? Let's give the herd every chance we can in the present. Even helping 5% of the herd survive with supplemental feed through a winter/starvation makes a difference, especially with the snowball affect going into the future.

Help keep our deer herd numbers up where my children will have the opportunity to enjoy the sport I grew to love with my dad, and am watching my children grow to enjoy with their father.

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Thank you, Alison Thompson