

In regards to SB2137, a bill relating to the use of supplemental feed for hunting. As an avid outdoorsman and landowner I would strongly urge you to vote yes. Currently supplemental feeding is allowed for any activity except during the act of hunting. As an outdoorsman I find this very confusing as we are told this is done to prevent the spread of CWD. I personally feel that our ND game and fish has not proven that this ban provides substantial mitigation pertaining to CWD or the prevention of CWD. I also feel strongly that CWD is not what has created a decline in our deer population in recent years , instead I feel EHD and hard winters have been to blame. Yet we hear nothing from ND game and fish about these. I also feel the use of supplemental feed does help overall herd health during harsh winters . As a landowner I feel it is an overreach by the ND game and fish and goes against property rights. Many groups who oppose this say it is not the legislatures job to intervein as many of you are not experts. I feel this would have not had to come to you if ND game and fish would be willing to work with the people. I feel we've tried to have our voices heard but we can not compete with special interest groups that ND game and fish continually listens to with an open ear. Many of us are just your average North Dakotan who wants to see our deer herd thrive so that we can continue give opportunities and pass down our hunting traditions and heritage to the next generation. Even if your don't hunt please consider how hunting season positively impacts the small town economies. As we see our deer herds devastated by EHD and die of from starvation during hard winters it decrease opportunity for ND outdoorsman and women which has a negative impact on our state. I disagree the legislature should not get involved because we elect you to represent us on issues just like this. ND game and fish director is an unelected position and really has no responsibility to answer to the people and the people have no recourse if they have an issue or concern. I feel that is exactly why many of us are asking you approve this measure. I would ask you to support this bill and give the people of ND a voice in this matter. Simply put the act of supplemental feeding is legal statewide, we just want the ability to hunt over said supplemental feed. This bill does not hinder the NDGNF resources as supplemental feeding as mentioned is already allowed statewide any time of the year. Thank you Travis Jensen