

## Testimony in Support of SB 2137

I, like many other sportsmen in North Dakota, are very passionate about hunting. Spending most of my spare time educating myself by observing deer or reading about them. Deer health is always a top priority to ensure a bright future for our sport.

Deer constantly like to be congregated and are very social animals. Making direct contact by communicating through licking branches and grooming one another. All this exposure naturally takes place year after year.

The data I have read shows in the past twenty years there have been 40,000 harvested deer and tested for CWD. In that time frame there have been 70 positive cases. Out of these 70, 69 were harvested deer and only one of them was a deer that was found dead. That is less than one percent of the tested deer testing positive for CWD. There have been living deer that are nine years old that test positive for for CWD. This is double the age of the average deer in ND. Other states that have CWD and much higher funding for research continue to allow supplemental feeding on private property. Yet they continue to have steady population numbers nor huge outbreaks. The numbers in all the current and past research do not add up to needing restrictions on supplemental feeding.

Currently you can use supplemental feed if you want to get pictures but not if you have a weapon in your hand. Theories and speculation are taking away rights of hunters. Supplemental feeding should be a choice that is optional to all hunters. To limit educated, health conscious hunters who are trying to add nutrition to a deer's daily diet does not make sense to me.

Using supplemental feed could get more elderly and disabled people involved in the sport. It is a great way to get young hunters outdoors and let them enjoy watching wildlife in a close proximity. Another advantage is it helps position deer for a more ethical shot placement. It would be great to implement a proactive management plan where we can help aid in our deer herds diet. In my opinion there are more pros than cons to this argument.

There is not enough factual data to justify not allowing hunting over supplemental feed. I would appreciate it if you could reflect on what I have said and give back to sportsmen who are trying to enjoy their sport.

Please vote yes on SB 2137.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Jordan Dahle

