

3-6-2025

Written Testimony in support of SB 2137

Members of the Committee

I am writing today in support of SB 2137. I have lived in North Dakota my entire life, started hunting with my family before I could even walk and started carrying a BB gun with my father pheasant and deer hunting not much after learning to walk. To say hunting and conservation is a way of life for me is an understatement. I have hunted countless states in America, and 7 different countries throughout the world. To say I have been involved in conservation debates throughout those travels is an understatement. I have been extremely proud throughout the years with the work our North Dakota Game and Fish has done.

When the debate of supplemental feed was brought up and how it was increasing the spread of disease it really sparked interest. I have spent countless hours researching and have looked at ways other countries and states concur "proven" disease. Only putting a ban on pulling the trigger over a bait pile is not truly going to help if they believe it is causing the issue. It would need to be extended much further than that. Common feeding lots, feeding cattle without high fences around them, not protecting grain, corn, beat piles the list goes on and on. If they are only going to outlaw pulling the trigger over bait it proves that they have an agenda over hunting over bait.

I own and hunt multiple farms throughout the state and on all of them we farm, add food plots, supplemental water, supplemental food, nutrient licks, and even nutrients in the water. If we do this 365 days a year it is legal, yet if I or one of my kids grabs their bow and sits in a stand over it it is illegal. To me that is a huge issue, that is the game and fish having an issue over something that should be a moral decision by each hunter.

Much like Africa and other areas of the world and country hunting is a huge economic driver for small town North Dakota. If you drive by the 12-room hotels in the 200-person towns 9 months out of the year there is a couple cars in the lot, if you drive by in the heart of deer season they are booked solid. Giving hunters every tool in their toolbox is important.

I fully support SB 2137 and I along with my entire family would suggest and appreciate a DO PASS.

Mike Svaleson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Svaleson", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.