

To: House Energy and Natural Resources

I am truly frustrated with the NDGF Department's political agenda regarding the baiting of deer. According to them not baiting will slow the spread of CWD. Wow. Deer are going to "group up" during the winter months. They always have and always will. I wonder if it was coincidence or intentional that the "baiting ban" happened about the same time that our state's deer population was hit hard with EHD/Blue Tongue. I believe some people think they are one and the same. They are not. There is no proof that supplemental feed increases the chance of CWD and, obviously, having a deer blind next to supplemental feed is not a CWD issue.

I also take offense that the NDGF thinks they are so important that they can tell me what to do on my land. I own land in Mountrail and McKenzie counties. North Dakota landowners and sportsmen are the caretakers of the land and wildlife. Not the NDGF.

Please consider landowner rights, the unnecessary culling of deer trying to find a positive CWD case, and the NDGF selling way too many doe tags after EHD recently annihilated our deer herd and vote in support of SB 2137.

Cindy Williamson