

Dear members of the House Energy and Natural Resources committee, please support SB 2137. To me, this ban on hunting over bait to help to prevent the spread of CWD is a sham. It is pretty obvious to me that if I can legally bait deer for photography, or other viewing, but it's illegal to harvest a deer over the same bucket of corn, this ban is NOT based on science. If not based on the science, what's driving this? Money? Control? Ethics? I wonder...

In the last 33 years my wife and I have scrimped, saved, and sacrificed a lot to arrive at the finish line. We've spent lots of money to end up owning 900 acres. We've spent tons of family time and money building hunting blinds, planting food plots, and planting trees.

We've also spent hundreds and hundreds of hours hunting with our children, our grandchildren, extended family, and friends. Many many times we've crowded five or six into a blind at the same time. The days being spent visiting, playing cards or games, doing homework, eating, and watching for deer. We've harvested hundreds of deer, without losing any, and millions of memories. Hunting with family and friends is Sacred to us.

A few years ago the NDGF banned hunting over bait in the two deer hunting units where we own land.

We bought into the CWD scare in the beginning. It ends up CWD and the WUHAN flu have a lot in common. Money and control through fear mongering. When the bait ban was enacted we changed our hunting activities. We went from well devised plans on focusing on trigger control, shot placement, and herd management, to the old run and gun style of hunting. You know, get up a few minutes late in the morning and do the Chinese fire drill to get into the pickup parked at the back end of the driveway. Drive around and shoot at anything legal. Long shots, running shots, whatever, blah blah blah. What a disappointment. So, for example, this past fall 2024 my family and two friends had 10 buck tags in unit 3A2. They all filled. Lots of gas wasted, 3 deer hit, and not recovered. What a joke. What an epic failure! The most memorable deer harvested was about as rewarding as cheating against your grandmother to win a game of whist, or lying to my priest at confession...

The last weekend of deer season this past year one of my grandchildren came up to me and said, this isn't really hunting anymore is it grandpa. I assured her that this was not. I promised her that from this day forward we will never shoot at a running deer, we will never shoot a rushed shot, and we will recover every deer that's been shot.

I'm just saying this, I'm done being controlled. From this day forward, I'm going to do it my way, even if it is over a bucket of corn..