

Members of the house energy and natural resources committee My name is Matt Seykora. I reside in Bottineau North Dakota. I am here today to show my support for Senate bill 2137. I am here today to not only speak on my own behalf of not only myself but also for my lovely wife and my four wonderful children who are all very avid outdoors, men, and women. I live and also hunt in a unit that falls within baiting restrictions in place by the game and Fish department. Because of a detection within 25 miles of my unit is the reason for the restriction.

In 2023 the game and Fish department had two units fall within the parameters of restriction with a positive case within 25 miles. Those units would be 2K one and also 3B2 at that time the game and Fish did not put out the proclamation until shortly before the season with that being said they decided to pause those units for the 23 season.

Moving forward into 2024 we had three more units in the north eastern part of the state units 2E2D and 2C also have detections that would brought them into the proximity range for restriction. The game and Fish comes back again and decides to pause those three units as well.

With that being said those five units add up to over 20,000 mi.² of the state of North Dakota. The state of North Dakota in total is just under 71,000 mi.² in total. Nearly 1/3 of the state. Not only with the pausing of those five units keep in mind two of them for two years and the other three for another year they have gone against their own regulations and their own hypothesis based science for a disease with a .2 prevalence rate.

As per legislation in 2009, the entire state is allowed to supplemental feed wildlife at any time at any place on private property. Lets not stay away from the fact that this is not a feeding of wildlife issue. This is a hunting restriction. This is a subject that the game and Fish is supposed to help preserve the hunting heritage of family friends and the making of new friends in the state.

Along with testing and restriction and over \$1.5 million spent on CWD in the state. What results do we have except for testing and restriction? This was sold to you in the last legislation that this was an epidemic that was going to decimate our deer herd. As we now have found out thats not true. The biggest killer in our deer herd is EHD and also starvation. I dont believe CWD would even make it into the top 10. My wife with her suburban has officially killed more deer in the state then CWD has. Haha

We supplemental feed deer all year round which intern doesnt keep those deer just on that property, but theyre able to get the nutrients and make it through rough winters and be in better shape to theyre able to fawn in the spring. It also creates more opportunity for others because those deer dont reside there all year. A lot of us live and breathe everything we can do for wildlife.

At this point it feels as if the game and Fish has taken their fingers off the pulse of the sports men and women in the state. We live on the landscape, but when it comes to spring and fall advisory board meetings, those ideas are brushed off because we dont have a degree that suits the narrative or the agenda and or better yet the federal funding.

In closing this is about lifting a hunting restriction on private lands and turning it into law. It will no longer be rules or guidelines that can be twisted and manipulated to fit certain agendas. I would appreciate your support and a do pass on Senate bill 2137.