

To whom this concerns,

I am taking a few minutes to write up a testimony in support of SB 2137.

This bait ban has yet to directly affect me as it's not in my unit but I can see the writing on the wall. I know that's just a matter of time and a personal agenda for some of the employees to see baiting gone will affect my kids and my bowhunting.

I will make this short and sweet....If you take away baiting in my opinion you take away alot of opportunities for the average blue collar guy in ND. We have seen how hunting is slowly shifting to a rich man's sport. People with lots of land will probably still have plenty of opportunities and possibly even more with a statewide bait ban. People who don't own land will struggle to kill whitetails in ND. Not to mention this will eliminate a lot of disabled people from the bow hunting sport entirely. I have a cousin that is limited to a wheelchair and a few years ago when his unit was banned from baiting he sold his archery equipment. He is on disability and doesn't have a rich dad or farm land to hunt. He was extremely happy to take a doe or first buck that would come in yearly until he was told he would have to "sit on a trail or pattern deer" because baiting was no longer a tool available to him. I would like to see anyone try who says people with disabilities should trudge around in a wheelchair in 6" of snow because baiting is no longer an option to allow them to hunt. I also work hand in hand with Prairie Grit on some outdoor activities, the banning of baiting will eliminate these kids opportunities. Period!!

A neighbor who is a rancher, located south of Minot, has reached out in prior years for assistance in winter for hay... Why??? Because often he has 300-500 deer nightly in his haystacks. We are supposed to follow the Game and Fish's recommendation to ban baiting because they believe ten pounds of corn and 3-4 deer will spread CWD but a person with a bird feeder or a Haystack in the winter won't? Herding happens every winter, this isn't a new phenomenon.

Why eliminate or limit our rights because someone has a "ethics" issue.... I wish we would release all Northern Pike over 40 inches but does that mean the rest of the state should??

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and I urge you to vote yes on SB 2137.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellen Latendresse

Minot, ND