

Chairman Porter and members of the Committee.

My name is Curt Francis and I am a deer hunter in opposition of SB2137. Our deer are a public trust species, owned by the people and managed by the Game and Fish Department for the benefit of all of the public.

We need to let those that have spent their careers learning about and managing wildlife make educated decisions regarding the management and health of our wildlife populations, including deer.

Management decisions regarding our deer herd should not be decided by political theater driven by narrow interests pushing manipulated information and misguided false narratives. It must rely on the expertise of our State's trained wildlife experts as well as reputable use of current and emerging science. We must afford the Game and Fish Department the tools to manage our deer for the greater good of all North Dakotans.

Theodore Roosevelt recognized there were and would be short sighted, selfish individuals and interest groups that have little regard for providing for the greatest good for the greatest number or the longevity of our public trust species, such as our North Dakota deer.

I'd like to think this committee has a vested interest in keeping North Dakota's deer herd healthy for as long as possible.

In the spirit of Teddy Roosevelt, I respectfully ask that you do not take management authority away from the Game and Fish Department and allow them to utilize the best management tools to protect our deer herd for the greatest good for the greatest number by voting NO on SB 2137.

Curt Francis
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