

I oppose SB 2137, removing the authority of the department to prohibit or restrict the use of supplemental feed on private property for hunting.

It is well documented that supplemental feeding is detrimental to wildlife including big game. Limiting the authority of the Department of Game and Fish threatens wildlife resources, livestock, and public health. One of the biggest risks of feeding is disease transmission. Disease is difficult to control in free-ranging wildlife populations. Prohibiting feeding is one way to address disease outbreaks. Bovine TB, brucellosis, and CWD are all transmitted at feed sites. Bovine TB and brucellosis both infect livestock. How will the Department mitigate the effects of these disease if they cannot prohibit a major transmission source?

As a biologist with decades of experience managing cervids in 3 states, I respectfully ask that you consider the unintended consequences of this legislation and its impacts on wildlife.