

Testimony of John Risch resident of Bismarck

Before the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee

In Opposition to SB 2137 1-17-2025

Mr. Chairman members of the committee my name is John Risch I'm a lifetime citizen of North Dakota. I'm retired from the railroad industry. My wife and I own a farm and ranch 10 miles southwest of Mandan. An incredibly beautiful place that has the Heart River flowing through it. A place where I and others hunt deer every year.

I strongly believe in the principle of "fair chase". I not only don't allow baiting on our place I also don't allow cameras, because they undermine the principle of "fair chase".

Baiting deer is certainly not "fair chase". Deer become accustomed to the bait and show up every day to eat it. All the hunter has to do is set up and wait. Shooting a deer over bait is not hunting, it's simply killing.

We are very fortunate to live in North Dakota where our hunting heritage is strong and for the most part respected by the public. Shooting deer over bait will undermine that respect.

We are also very fortunate to have an incredible Game and Fish Department. Headed by Director Jeb Williams and a team of professional wildlife biologists. They are the experts. If they say baiting helps spread disease and it threatens our deer population I believe them. They should not be prohibited from doing what they think is right to protect our precious wildlife.

I urge the committee to recommend a "Do Not Pass" on Senate bill 2137 and vote against the bill when it comes to the floor.

