

Senate Bill 2137 in North Dakota seeks to restrict the ability of the Game and Fish Department to regulate baiting practices for big game hunting on private lands. This bill undermines the department's authority and could have serious consequences for wildlife management and conservation efforts in the state.

Baiting has been linked to the spread of wildlife diseases, particularly Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), which is a growing concern for North Dakota's deer and elk populations. By allowing unrestricted baiting, SB 2137 could exacerbate disease transmission, leading to long-term harm to wildlife health and hunting opportunities.

Additionally, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is staffed with experts who base their decisions on scientific research and extensive experience in wildlife management. By limiting their ability to regulate baiting, SB 2137 compromises their ability to implement effective, evidence-based strategies that protect both wildlife populations and the interests of responsible hunters.

For these reasons, I urge lawmakers to reject SB 2137 and allow the Game and Fish Department to continue its important role in protecting North Dakota's wildlife and maintaining sustainable hunting practices.