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My name is Megan Langley, and I am a lifelong resident of North Dakota, a passionate hunter, and someone who deeply values the traditions and economic contributions of hunting in our state.

Over the years, I have witnessed firsthand how hunting enriches our communities, both culturally and economically. From my own experience as an archery hunter, I understand the significant investments of time and money that hunters contribute. For example, my preparation for a single season involved thousands of dollars in equipment, fuel, food, and supplies—expenditures that not only support local businesses but also bolster the state's rural economy. Hunting is more than recreation; it is a driver of economic activity, particularly in our smaller communities.

SB 2137 recognizes the importance of allowing responsible use of supplemental feed for hunting on private property. Baiting is a tool that levels the playing field for hunters, particularly those without access to large tracts of land or extensive resources. It enhances hunting success rates and ensures that participation remains accessible for newcomers and seasoned hunters alike. Restricting baiting, as has been done in many units, has led to a measurable decline in direct economic spending by hunters, as documented in the North Dakota Game & Fish Department's reports.

Supporting SB 2137 is not only about ensuring fair access for hunters but also about sustaining and growing the economic impact hunting has in North Dakota. Allowing baiting on private land aligns with our values of respecting private property rights while maintaining the viability of an important industry. Furthermore, it complements the state's efforts to attract and retain residents by showcasing North Dakota as a place where outdoor traditions thrive.

I urge this committee to support SB 2137 to preserve the accessibility, success, and economic contributions of hunting in our state. Thank you for considering my testimony.