

Good morning members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Mark Anderson. I hunt deer. I am a landowner. I am opposed to Senate Bill 2137.

1. Please pay close attention to the disease epidemiologists, veterinarians, or other true experts that have or will testify on scientifically documented information on the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease.
2. Deer hunters have many new technologies, innovations, and tactics available to kill a deer:

Spotting scopes, range-finders, rifle & scope combinations capable of killing deer at well over a half-mile, computer programs that calculate the exact aiming point at incredible distances by accounting for the temperature, elevation above sea level, wind, distance and vertical angle to the deer; bi-pods, tri-pods, scent blocker sprays, scent-blocker clothing, doe-in-heat scent to attract bucks, manual deer calls, electronic deer calls, deer decoys, trail cameras remotely monitored 24-7, sound-amplifying head phones to hear deer movement, noise suppressors for rifles and pistols, tree stands, tower blinds, heaters, camouflage clothing for archers, compound bows with as much as 90% pull reduction, bow stabilizers, mechanical string releases, adjustable bow sights, bowstring silencers, super-light arrows with much less drop than was possible years ago, scopes on muzzle-loading rifles, dogs to help find a killed deer, ATV's and snowmobiles to take on trails blocked by snow or to retrieve a kill off the trail. I might have missed more.

With the tools and tactics now available, most hunters have proven they don't need to use bait to harvest a deer and enjoy the experience.

3. At a recent Game & Fish advisory meeting, one veteran hunter said that many youths are being taught today how to kill deer, but they are not being taught how to hunt. He was right; the emphasis has shifted away from hunting toward simple killing. I hunt deer on my own land only, and even though I do not use trail cameras or baiting, I must admit that killing a deer is still easy to do; maybe too easy.
4. Most of the deer tag holders get a chance to shoot a deer, and do so without the use of bait. The unspoken problem for too many hunters is the relentless drive to kill a trophy buck. They want every possible tactic available to help them kill a trophy buck, even if that tactic poses a risk to the health of the deer herd. Allowing baiting makes it easier to kill deer, but it does nothing to increase the deer population or protect the herd from CWD.

Please, Representatives, vote against more Chronic Wasting Disease. Vote No on SB 2137.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Mark A. Anderson