

January 15 2025

SB 2137

Mr. Charman and members of the committee,

My name is Mr. Matthew Peterson. I am a bow instructor, farmer, rancher, carpenter, nature conservationist, wildlife enthusiast, avid sportsman, etc. etc., I could fill a whole page with names but none the less. There are just a few points I would like to make.

Firstly, the value of the animals from one person to the next including the environment itself. As a rancher I raise my own beef to consume. Many do not have that luxury and have to find other ways to feed their family. Wild game is one of those. Some do not have the access to large acreage for hunting as others and this is where baiting helps ease that burden of feeding one's family. The environment has these animals included in the natural course of life from being food on the prairie to food on a table as well as the natural carriers for many things such as plants, diseases and insects.

Second, the health of the animals of concern and their predators, that being both disease and natural predators. The main predator I bring to concern is the coyote. They can diminish a herd in small amount of time so why are we limited in our pursuit of them to protect those herds while neighboring states having less restrictions? Why are we not more concerned with this problem that is so much more widespread? Others have mentioned the numbers tested and the very small percentage of positive tests. Why are those important results not easily found if we are to be educated on facts not just hearsay?

Third, I see these animals naturally gather. In the winter I have seen herds of 200 and sometimes 300 or more. During summer months I have seen many larger groups as well, very commonly 4-6 in open fields and more than 10 in well covered areas. Previous baited areas I personally have not seen more than 10-15. I believe these to be local animal and not ones that have traveled long distances.

I have read others concern with this bill on both sides of constitutional, ethical, moral etc... Is not the constitution there for the people? As times change so has our constitution both State and Federal in directing how law is governed by keeping in line with checks and balances.

I thank you for your time and consideration.



Mr. Matthew Peterson