

I am writing in opposition of SB 2137, which would remove the authority of the Department to prohibit or restrict the use of supplemental feed on private property for hunting.

Research has shown that feeding is undisputably bad for wildlife, including big game. It increases transmission of all diseases, not just CWD, and also parasites. Other diseases known to be transmitted at feed sites include bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, salmonellosis, toxoplasmosis, lungworms, and tapeworms. It changes behavior patterns, makes them more susceptible to vehicle collisions, and many other consequences.

To take away the Department's ability to restrict or prohibit this activity would be to severely hinder their ability to fulfill their mission to protect, conserve, and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat for sustained public use, which includes mitigating wildlife diseases, some of which can affect people, pets, and livestock.

I urge you to consider the consequences of this legislation and do what is best for the long-term benefit and preservation of North Dakota's wildlife.

Thank you,

Andrea Korman

Wildlife Biologist