

From: [Anderson, Dick D.](#)
To: [Randazzo, Addison - HTechClerk3 - HEDU - HNAT](#)
Subject: Fw: SB2137
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:23:41 AM

From: Carter Medalen <carmedal67@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 12:08:29 AM
To: Anderson, Dick D. <dickanderson@ndlegis.gov>
Subject: SB2137

You don't often get email from carmedal67@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Mr. Anderson,

I am emailing you in support of a bill to either restrict or ban baiting. My preference would be to ban baiting for the sake of preserving the resource. Baiting does not initiate CWD as there are places that have had a long history of baiting and to date have no CWD, but once CWD is in an area, baiting propagates the problem. My analogy is this, if you go into a restaurant where someone is sick, there is a possibility that you can get sick as well, but if you go in a restaurant and eat off of the same plate as the person that is sick there is a much higher possibility of getting sick. Baiting artificially congregates deer. If deer are congregated in an area and more prions are deposited in that area, are not the deer congregated there more likely to become infected. The manner in which deer feed off of a bait pile is significantly different than how they forage in the wild as well as how they forage in a food plot. Deer/big game are not meant to eat out of the same trough and there are benefits to having deer spread out. How careful are landowners about the screenings or the bait they purchase and put out, are we potentially going to introduce the next noxious weed problem to ND? I will remind you that palmer amaranth was brought into NE in CRP seed and into Michigan by cottonseed meal used in dairy feed and the palmer amaranth seed went through the dairy cattle and the manure was spread on fields and now they fight palmer amaranth in their crop fields. What guardrails are in place to prevent something like that in ND, whether it is farm fields or range land? I question the testing that is taking place in ND from this standpoint, we are testing deer that have been harvested. How many hunters are shooting a sick deer when out hunting? More than likely if they see a deer that does not look well they are not shooting it, so we are testing animals that are not likely to be sick on the random chance that they have CWD. My analogy of that would be if a rancher has an animal that dies and does a postmortem on the beef they sent to the butcher. The ND Game and Fish Department is tasked with managing the resource and then cannot implement decisions for the sake of managing the resource because landowners want to turn it into a landowner rights issue. Land owners own the land but they do not own the deer or the big game on their property. We have to let ND Game and Fish do their job and manage the resource and we cannot handcuff their ability by claiming landowner rights. I have hunted deer for nearly 40 years in ND and 2023 was the poorest deer numbers I have ever seen and 2024 was worse. The vast majority of the hunters I talk to in the North Central part of the state say the exact same thing, that the current deer situation is as poor as they remember. Deer numbers drastically dropping never comes down to one thing and our deer population is being affected by loss of habitat (crp put back into production and shelterbelts being taken out). We have very high coyote numbers right now and fawn recruitment is super poor due to those high coyote numbers. We have had two relatively easy

winters and the winter of 22-23 started with a lot of snow but was not by any means what I would call a horrible winter but we are losing adult deer and without a doubt the last two winters should not have killed adult deer. Coyotes can take down sick deer but very seldomly will kill adult deer. So why are our adult deer numbers falling off? Any adult deer carcasses that I find dead on my family's property, I hope to have tested as I want to know if we are up against CWD. I will also add that not every landowner wants baiting to be legal. Too often the pro baiting crowd wants the public to believe that every landowner wants baiting to be legal and that is not correct. Baiting creates a lot of turf wars, land with great cover next to land that does not hold a lot of deer due to lack of cover and a bait pile is put in across the fence to draw deer away from the land that has the habitat and hard feelings are created.

If baiting is allowed there needs to be restrictions of some kind. Limit the amount of feed that can be put out on a daily basis. There needs to be setbacks whereas landowners cannot bait across the fence from each other. Hunters that are for baiting seem to have a notion that we should be allowed to keep baiting until there is a problem. I would liken it to a smoker who says that he is going to keep smoking until he has a bad cough. At that point it may be entirely too late. I believe we are at a point where we have a problem in ND and by not managing correctly it will only become a larger problem?

The last point I will try to make is this. We are a conservative state and we are taking a very liberal approach to this issue. To me conservatives err on the side of caution and hunters who want to bait are throwing caution to the wind. I have a soon to be 13 year old daughter who enjoys deer hunting and now with numbers being as poor as I can remember, she will not have the opportunities that I have had. I do not bait and initially did not care if people chose to bait but I now see it as one more issue having a detrimental effect on the ND deer population. I am thrilled to see Elk numbers rising in the state of ND. If CWD continues to become more prevalent, what effect will it have on our state's elk population? Can we guarantee that it will not affect our state's livestock? If we enjoy hunting don't we want to see our kids have the opportunities we have had as well as the improved opportunities with our ND elk population growing? Thank you!

Respectfully,

Carter Medalen
Resident of Rugby, ND