



February 28, 2025

Chairman Porter  
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Coteau AB Room  
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505

Vice-Chair Anderson  
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Coteau AB Room  
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Senate Bill 2216 - *A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 20.1-02 and a new section to chapter 20.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to waterfowl habitat restoration stamp fees and the waterfowl habitat improvement fund.*

Position: SUPPORT

Chairman Porter and Vice-Chair Anderson,

On behalf of Delta Waterfowl members, both in the state of North Dakota and across the United States, I want to thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony in **support of Senate Bill 2216**, legislation that that will create a state waterfowl habitat stamp and establish a state waterfowl habitat improvement fund through the North Dakota Department of Game and Fish (Game and Fish). This legislation passed the North Dakota Senate 39-6 on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

For some background, Delta Waterfowl is the largest organization in North American dedicated to ducks and duck hunters. Founded at the famed Delta Marsh in Manitoba in 1911, with its United States headquarters here in Bismarck, North Dakota, Delta Waterfowl works to promote and protect the continuing tradition of waterfowl hunting across North America – including here in North Dakota.

Waterfowl management and waterfowl hunting in North Dakota is a time-honored tradition. This legislation will help preserve and enhance the habitat essential for waterfowl to thrive across North Dakota by creating additional money for a new state waterfowl habitat improvement fund. Furthermore, it will also help secure a strong future for waterfowl hunting in the state. Delta Waterfowl specifically supports a \$10 cost for the stamp that would, if enacted, result in an estimated \$264,000 of additional revenue per biennium for Game and Fish. Waterfowl hunters have shown time and time again they are ready to step up and help fund the conservation efforts necessary to protect critical habitat on both private and public lands and help promote waterfowl hunting to the next generation of North Dakota residents.

Additionally, this legislation would enable Game and Fish to more effectively monitor and analyze the annual number of resident waterfowl hunters, providing valuable insights into hunting activity and harvest rates. Dozens of states across the United States have a state equivalent waterfowl stamp that not only helps fund waterfowl management but allows the state to accurately assess how many waterfowl hunters they have across



the landscape. Game and Fish does a good job of this now through post season survey work and analysis, but having a more accurate number of resident waterfowl hunters will help them achieve their management goals and better serve their constituents.

We look forward to working with members of this committee and the rest of the North Dakota House as this bill moves through the final steps in the legislative process. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly and we ask that you move this bill favorably out of committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cy Baird".

Cyrus Hunter Baird  
Senior Director of Government Affairs  
Delta Waterfowl Foundation