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**NORTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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**HB 1082 Testimony  
Dr. Ethan Andress  
North Dakota State Veterinarian  
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs  
Fort Union  
February 13, 2025**

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Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, I am Dr. Ethan Andress, North Dakota State Veterinarian. I am here on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, and the State Board of Animal Health. I will testify on HB 1082.

HB 1082 is intended to update NDCC 36-25-01 with the current scientific name for North American elk. In law, “farmed elk” are defined as *Cervus elaphus* which originally included both North American elk and European elk (red deer) as subspecies.

In recent years, the scientific community has recognized these elk as two distinct species, *Cervus canadensis* for North American Elk, or *Cervus elaphus* for European elk.

We recommend this update to the definition for “Farmed elk” as *Cervus canadensis*, commonly known as the North American Elk.

Thank you, and I will stand for any questions.