

Senate Ag Committee members

My name is Gabe Thompson a rancher/farmer from Antler ND and an avid outdoorsman as well as bow hunter .. as well as a former instructor in a youth archery club for many years who has introduced many kids to the sport of bowhunting

My testimony today is in support of SB 2137

Today I am sharing what you likely will not hear from the “experts” and those others in opposition to this bill

In almost 15 years of monitoring the NDGF admits only one deer has been found dead in the wild with CWD ...only one

Just 3 years ago by the NDGF own public admission at advisory meetings 50% of the states deer herd or 40-50,000 deer died from starvation and malnourished stress related causes because the NDGF will not work with sportsmen clubs to provide supplemental feed and actively discourage it.

Not that many years ago ND sportsmen had 149,000 tag opportunities.... We now have barely over 1/3 that many at 55,000 ... not from CWD.... remember only one deer has been found dead from CWD ...but from starvation and EHD

That is an almost 200% decrease in opportunities for ND sportsmen as a result of these “experts” management

Last session on a similar bill, it was the most testified on bill by ND residents of the session.

Roughly 80% were in favor of that bill preventing the NDGF from restricting hunting over feed or a mock scrape or a mineral block

A few years back in an initiated measure sportsman passed protections regarding hunting and fishing into the state constitution... it reads as follows

“Hunting, trapping, and fishing and the taking of game and fish are a valued part of our heritage and will be forever preserved for the people and managed by law and regulation for the public good.”

This measure passed with 77% of voters in favor as well, roughly the same percentage of sportsmen who supported last sessions bill on this subject ...we proponents of SB 2137 ARE the voice of ND sportsmen

You will inevitably be told this needs to be left to the “experts” of the NDGF who by any metric have failed miserably in protecting opportunities for sportsmen in our state to hunt deer who can’t even follow their own “science” and policy ...

But the text of the constitution says different.... Quote “will be forever preserved for the people and managed by law and regulation for the public good.”

“managed by law” ...the peoples ELECTED representatives ... when unelected govt agency bureaucrats will not listen to those they regulate regarding hunting... our constitution specifically instructs the legislators to step in and address the concerns of ND sportsmen ... and a vast majority of ND sportsmen along with myself are asking you to support SB 2137 with a do pass

I am confident other testimonies will break down the flaws in the NDGF “science”, data and their inability to even follow their own policy as well as other poor management actions of reducing deer populations intentionally while the herd is at already vastly reduced numbers from starvation and EHD

I am asking you to follow the sportsmen wishes they placed into the constitution and be the voice of we the people in protecting our deer herd and hunting opportunities with a yes vote on SB 2137

Thank you, sincerely
Gabe Thompson Jr