

January 10, 2024

To: Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs

I am testifying in opposition to SB 2137. I am a lifelong North Dakota resident and hunter and I have spent many seasons bowhunting whitetails over bait. I do NOT have a problem with the ethics of baiting deer. I do have a problem with restricting our state wildlife agency's ability to manage our wildlife and our future hunting opportunities effectively.

If SB 2137 is approved it will set a dangerous precedent. It takes an important wildlife decision away from the scientific professionals at the North Dakota Game and Fish, and turns it over to our Legislature where there is more opportunity for emotional, non-scientific influence from lobbying groups. The North Dakota Game and Fish has many tough decisions to make, but they have proven themselves to act in the best interest of wildlife and future hunting in North Dakota. Other states in our nation have lost hunting rights and hunting seasons because wildlife decisions were taken away from their state wildlife agency and turned over to their legislature and public vote.

The folks at the North Dakota Game and Fish are pro-wildlife, pro-hunting, and are trying to do what's best to ensure quality hunting for future North Dakotans. Please allow these professionals to act in the best interest of future hunting opportunities and oppose SB 2137.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan Gleason". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jordan Gleason