

Senate Ag Committee members,

North Dakota has no room for ballot box biology. From California's Proposition 117 banning mountain lion hunting to the narrowly passed Colorado Proposition 114 requiring wolf reintroduction, it just goes to show how people with good intentions can be misguided, misinformed or elicited to vote based on strong emotions. They set aside the biology and science. Out-of-state groups can, will and have influenced voters and legislators. Utilizing the legislative process to circumvent a state agency is no different or less wrong.

State wildlife agencies do their best to make sound decisions based on biology and current science. They involve the public in the process when appropriate and this requires a delicate balance. When it comes to conservation, they need to place it atop the pedestal and sometimes overrule public opinion. CWD is here to stay, and it will require changes.

Any person still supporting baiting in CWD areas has done little to no research on CWD, simply reading the testimony for this bill highlights that fact. The Game and Fish Department has done their homework and is continuing to work with the public on this matter. They are also putting out education on the subject. Many who have read it will say it's not correct and attempt to debunk it, with minimal if any supporting information.

Regardless of which side you stand on baiting, we should all support the very agency that has been tasked with managing our most valuable resource. We need to respect the process and work with the agency. Good compromise will not make both sides happy, although they can live with the results. Cervids cannot live with CWD.

Thank you for your consideration,

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