

Dear members of the Senate Agriculture and Veteran Affairs Committee,

I am writing in **opposition of Senate Bill 2137**.

I am an avid outdoorsman and a wildlife biologist by trade. I am neither for nor against hunting over bait. I am deeply concerned with the precedent this bill will set, if passed, to take the decision of managing our public resources out of the hands of the North Dakota Game and Fish (NDGF) and into the hands of politicians. Our wildlife populations are public resources and must remain managed utilizing science-based decisions in the best interest of the resources and outdoors community as a whole.

While I realize citizens will not always agree with decisions and regulations the NDGF makes, it's important to know that these decisions are made based on science and solely for the benefit of our natural resources and the citizens who utilize them via hunting, fishing, and trapping. When these decisions start being made by entities with biased agendas, the hunting community in general will suffer dire consequences in the future.

CWD and baiting is a hot-button topic in North Dakota. Information gathered and used by the NDGF is not based on skepticism and false assumptions, but in scientifically proven research and data. I urge you not to set the precedent of taking away the ability of the NDGF to make decisions on behalf of our natural resources. Our opportunities to hunt, fish, and trap are better off when the management of those resources is left in the hands of a politically neutral agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Please vote **NO** on **SB 2137**.

Zach Peterson

Bismarck, North Dakota