

January 13, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

As an avid outdoorsman and wildlife biologist by degree, I strongly **oppose SB 2137**. This bill would remove authority from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) to implement their management plans by prohibiting NDGF from banning baiting practices.

While I do not have a stance on baiting ethics, I do have a strong stance on legislation that seeks to restrict the ability of the state's wildlife professionals to fulfill their statutory and constitutional duties, that require them to manage for sustainable populations of wildlife for current and future generations.

This is not a private property rights issue, this is about publicly owned wildlife, making this a public property rights issue. The hunting practices of a single user group does not outweigh what is beneficial for the entire public resource or the beneficiaries.

It is my stance that the NDGF does have the legal authority to ban feeding, and I would support joining most of the states in the nation and implementing a feeding ban in the units that are under baiting restrictions.

This bill is not in the best interest of the deer held in public trust, or the North Dakota public hunters who are beneficiaries of that trust. I feel SB 2137 to be in direct violation of the North Dakota constitution, the North Dakota century code, the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, the mission of the NDGF, and is a breach of the public trust doctrine.

I strongly oppose SB 2137 and I wish for you to do the same.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your **NO VOTE** on SB 2137.

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