

To Whom it may concern:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for SB2137. I have followed the public's reaction and the response of numerous game departments to the threat of CWD to the North American cervid population for very close to 50 years. I find it interesting after reading the testimonies of those opposing this bill the reason most oppose it is that they feel the management of this "threatening" disease should be left to the professionals. We are setting a precedent when passing a bill like this. I would further state however that ND Game and Fish and many other management agencies across the nation have dropped the ball when it comes to the management of deer (cervids) regarding CWD. We the people are allowing this to happen if we continue to permit the professionals to continue down the path of implementing unfounded restrictions, unrestricted culling of healthy herds, and fear mongering amongst sportsmen who deserve better. NONE of the models predicting decimation of herds or imminent spread of disease have happened. The only population of deer that are being negatively affected by CWD are from management practices. Culling operations are being implemented to reduce numbers of deer that aren't old enough to catch a cold let alone CWD. Unnecessary restrictions on carcass transport have driven people to stop hunting at a time when hunter numbers are in trouble. The science needs to be followed but when the people that are supposed to be following it don't, maybe it's time they are lead. I can go on and am tempted to, but I truly hope the testimony of myself and others is heard and truly appreciate the opportunity to give it.

Respectfully  
Kim Buntrock