

My name is Jeff Whillock, I am a 71 YO, landowner, hunter, Veteran and voter. I submit this testimony in support of 2025 ND SB 2137.

The NDGF Chronic Wasting Disease policy is based on a document, partially funded by anti-2A and anti-hunter organizations, produced by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). The AFWA document promotes a Theory, (not scientific facts) peer reviewed by Wildlife agencies and others who stood to financially gain by its implementation. The AFWA document contains over 150 words such as : may, have the potential, likely, might, most possibly, suggests, etc.

20 years ago I had great respect for NDG&F, that is no longer the case. NDGF has implemented overreaching policies relating to CWD (which may have killed 1 deer) and completely ignored EHD which has killed tens of thousands of deer over the past few years. NDG&F does not follow it's own policies ie: several hunting units (2K1, 3B2, 2D,2C,and 2E) have NOT been included in the ban on hunting over supplemental feed. Additionally all units prohibited from hunting over supplemental feed can still hunt over water tanks. The NDG&F have used their overarching policy for many years and the incidence of positive tests have remained under 1%.

The testing for CWD is accomplished and controlled by individuals and organizations that have a monetary interest in positive results. There is no third party oversight.

NDG&F's position is that a "prion" is the cause of CWD, yet to this day they have not been able to show a picture of the mythical prion. They have shown renderings, not a picture, even though the ability to take pictures of an atom in a molecule is possible. There is no proof that CWD is contagious.

The NDG&F have driven a wedge between landowners and hunters by blaming poor hunting on landowners taking land out of CRP and removing shelterbelts and tree rows. Yet, instead NDGF have used the additional revenue (1 million+) to buy billboards and TV advertising when the money could have been spent on habitat improvement. NDG&F gives no credit to individual landowners who have, at their own expense, undertaken habitat improvement, clean water and yes, supplemental feed, benefiting wildlife on their property as well as adjacent properties.

NDGF ban on hunting over supplemental feed has had a negative impact on several categories of potential hunters:

1. Youth: Hunting over a small food pile allows them to take the time to make a controlled, safe and ethical kill. Many do not have the ability to beat the brush with a 9# rifle and make a safe ethical shot.
2. Handicap individuals: Wheelchair bound and other individuals who do not have the ability to go to the animals and need to bring animals to them.
3. Elderly: Same
4. Disabled Veterans: Same

Prior to the NDG&F ban on hunting over supplemental feed, I personally helped several of the above. I am proud that I helped 2 Veterans successfully harvest game as their last hunt, they passed before they received another hunting license

When asked about the impact on the above categories of hunters, the NDG & F response was "too bad for them".

In closing I believe that the NDG&F were acting in good faith at the beginning of this CWD hoax, just as we were all acting in good faith at the beginning of Covid 19. The problem is the CWD hoax became monetized and the NDG&F cannot, on their own, let go of the money. They are lying to us and we know it, the sad part is they are lying to us and THEY KNOW IT.

Jeff Whillock,