

January 10, 2025

TO: Senate Agriculture and Veteran Affairs  
RE: SB 2137

## **IN SUPPORT**

The current CWD regulations do not make sense.

The NDGF does not follow their own regulations and “science”.

Surveillance units have been manipulated for data and public pleasing actions.

CWD is based on the “Prion Hypothesis”.

Herds are not being decimated and after 57 years, we would see the impact.

No one has pictures of a “prion”. No one. Studies with pictures of fibrils are not “prion”.

22 years of testing 50,000 deer and ONE confirmed with CWD.

## **WHAT ARE WE DOING NORTH DAKOTA?**

**This is what is being done:**

### **Human Dimensions**

Being used on the public and Legislators at the tune of \$265,023 of federal grant money that was spent on:

*Social media, email marketing, display of ads, search engine marketing, content marketing (video, webcast, podcast), print advertising (magazines, billboards), television, radio, mail, public engagement meetings, vendor events, NDSU Bison in game feature ads. (Provided at NDGF Legislative meeting 1/10/25)*

All under the guise of “public outreach and education”.

### **Testing**

The majority of the deer tested are healthy harvested deer. Way less than 1% are “positive” over 22 years of testing 50,000 deer.

The tests use a technique called ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) that are designed like the PCR tests that were used with COVID. They are designed to pick up antigens and debris that attach to them such as bacteria, virus, and fungi.

They test the lymph nodes of the deer. Lymph nodes rid the body of wastes.

They do NOT test for prion.

They do NOT test for a neurodegenerative disease.

These tests are dictating every decision about CWD.

The ONLY way to confirm a disease like CWD, is to necropsy (biopsy) the brain to see the degrading.

## **Restricting**

In 2005, the NDGF began a campaign to ban the feeding of deer. 2007 and 2009 brought Legislative bills to stop the feeding of wildlife and the public defeated this action.

The NDGF has no authority over the feeding of wildlife.

Because the NDGF does have the authority over method of take, they have a regulation that states if you are in a unit that they have deemed infected with CWD, or are within 25 miles of that unit, you cannot HUNT over supplemental feed.

The entire state can place feed anywhere, anytime and any amount. It is when you are in a restricted unit, you cannot pull the trigger.

It has become a HUNTING RESTRICTION in the deemed CWD units.

There are no irrefutable documents that have shown natural transmission in a controlled environment, that CWD is contagious. The studies available all use massive inoculations (shoving brain matter or saliva) or transfusions, and this is not sound science.

If CWD is contagious, after 57 years, there would not be a deer on the landscape, anywhere.

## **Culling**

The NDGF believes that killing healthy deer will stop the “spread” of CWD.

Williston Massacre:

The NDGF was notified about a dead deer in Williston in 2019. It was tested and Deemed “positive”. Along with the USFW, the NDGF slaughtered 50+ deer, at night, over bait. It has been described as a “blood bath” by locals. The murdered deer were tested and all were negative. The meat was disposed of.

Other states that rely on this savage act, have proven this tool does not work.

Hunting tags are allocated to “stop the spread” in units that CWD is prevalent. In other words, sportsmen are culling the deer for CWD instead of the NDGF.

**So again, what is being done?**

**Human Dimensions**

**Testing**

**Restricting**

**Culling**

**Nothing is being done FOR the deer of North Dakota.**

In fact, the NDGF is discouraging the feeding of the deer at the times that they need it the most (harsh winters and with fetus).

Since 2007, \$919,612 of North Dakotans license and fees has been used on CWD “management”. Not one cent FOR the deer.

The fact that the NDGF has plunged efforts into HUMAN DIMENSIONS is quite disturbing when CWD is a disease about deer.

How is testing, restricting, and culling based on a hypothesis, a management tool that can be trusted? How can hyprocrisy be trusted? It seems that “science” and “expertise” have lost their way.

Because of the above points, any many not mentioned, I am in full SUPPORT of SB 2137.

Respectfully,

Pat Backer