

Re: SB 2137 The use of supplemental feed for hunting.

My name is Abby Jorde and I am a resident of rural Towner, ND. My father, Christ Jorde, is an entrepreneur (farmer, rancher, and outfitter) and the head of operations for Heart J Ranch & Hay and Heart J Outfitters. I've taken hunter safety and I currently trapshoot. Hunting and firearms have always been a part of my life. Many memories made while hunting are ones I will cherish forever. That being said, the use of supplemental feed for hunting has many benefits. I am in favor of SB 2137 because not only is hunting an important and meaningful activity, it provides many more opportunities for hunters. Deer are wild animals, therefore they do not know boundaries. Deer or any animals do not know the difference between units, counties, or states. Deer are animals that survive by instinct and experience. Deer that are used to there being food in an area (food plot) will associate that area as a part of their mind map of survival. Deer populations much like any animal populations need to be protected. Hunters are the primary tool for managing healthy wildlife populations in North Dakota.

I myself as a minor have experienced youth tag hunting. Having a youth tag year after year while still in that age range, you have your own season and opportunity to hunt that is almost guaranteed because you have a tag. However, when our young hunters get older, they move from the youth tags to the general lottery. Once in the age range of the general lottery, your chance to harvest a deer rests solely on the mere chance that you find an area that a deer of your liking will be passing through so you may harvest it. Without baiting, it may be incredibly hard to establish where deer will be passing through.

There are a lot of positives to allowing baiting that affect several different aspects of hunting. Deer "herd up" naturally as a survival instinct. CWD does not spread strictly over a bait pile, and allowing everyone to place bait piles would actually hypothetically spread out deer around the state, rather than them crowding in places where only part of the state is allowed to bait.

Please consider and vote in favor of passing SB 2137. Thank you.
Abby Jorde. Towner, ND.