

Thursday, January 16, 2025

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To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Game and Fish Department's Regulations on Feeding Wildlife During Hunting Season

I am a landowner in Western Cass County. My ranch consists of approximately 2,000 acres along the Maple River.

I have spent countless time and money making the land better for both agriculture practices and deer management.

I have been installing food plots and supplemental feeding deer for the past twenty (20) years. The deer will naturally herd up on my property in the wintertime, even prior to my ownership, due to the cover that is along the river.

On an average year, I will have approximately 150 – 250 deer congregate and herd up on my property.

I feel the deer will do what deer naturally do; they will herd up in the wintertime and stay in close contact with others and even feed in the same area without supplemental feed.

The reason the deer herd up on my property is for the habitat, as well as, food and survival against predators. There is safety in numbers.

If a deer comes down with CWD, there is nothing we can do to prevent deer to be in contact with each other. This is what will naturally happen with mother nature.

My questions are... if baiting is legal during the entire year, except when hunting over the feed, what are you really accomplishing? What underlining goals are you trying to accomplish?

Is this an ethical thing that you are trying to achieve? If this is the case, we have rifles that can shoot out to 1,000 yards. How ethical is that?

The winter of 2022 – 2023 was extremely devastating for the deer population. I estimated I have lost 50% of the herd that winter on my property. If it wasn't for supplemental feed, the devastation could have been worse.

I feel the ND Game and Fish Department is lacking in good leadership. We should be working with the landowners for better habitat and more access for the average hunter.

By telling us we cannot hunt deer on our own land over supplemental feed during the hunting season, I feel is unacceptable. You are furthering the stress on the landowner and the sportsmen.

In closing, regarding SB2137, I hope you take the information I have provided into consideration.

Thank you so much for your time

A concerned Conservationist and Sportsman,

Craig A. Wendt
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