

January 16th, 2025 I strongly oppose Senate bill #2137 as CWD should not be ignored. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department exists to promote hunting and fishing in North Dakota and using information gleaned from the rapid spread of CWD in other states the department wants a better outcome for North Dakota. SB 2137 directly contradicts the science of CWD spread and limits the department's efforts to control the disease. Baiting may increase deer harvest success short term, but CWD infected units will most definitely see a decrease in herd size and therefore a decrease in hunter success in the long term. Another protein folding disease seen in sheep called scrapie can cause pastures to be infected for over 10 years so prevention of spread to other hunting units is the goal. The misfolded protein that causes CWD is related to Mad Cow Disease but has not been shown to cause human disease at this time but as thousands and millions of people are exposed to the protein, no one can guarantee that that will continue. The North Dakota Game and Fish department wants to limit the spread of CWD. SB 2137 ties the hands of the experts and should be voted down. Rod Gigstad DVM Grand Forks, ND