January 16, 2025

RE: Senate Bill 2137 – Use of Supplemental Feed for Hunting

Members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 2137 (SB2137) that would strip the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) of their ability to promulgate certain rules regarding hunting. Two of the seven tenants of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation are the Public Trust Doctrine and scientific management. Wildlife belongs to the public and is managed by government agencies on behalf of all citizens and managed based on the best available scientific research and findings. By approving SB 2137 we would be taking away the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to effectively manage deer populations for all citizens of North Dakota.

As highlighted in many of these "In Opposition" testimonials, approving SB 2137 sets a dangerous precedent for the future of wildlife and hunting management in the state of North Dakota. As a lifelong deer hunter myself, there is nothing I want more than sustainable deer populations and hunting opportunities now and in the future. Senate Bill 2137 would reduce NDGF's decision making ability, flexibility, and effective management if approved. I respectfully ask you all to oppose Senate Bill 2137 and allow the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to continue in their mission to protect, conserve, and improve deer populations and ensure that these resources are available for public use in the long term.

Sincerely,

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