

I am in favor of SB 2137, the use of supplemental feed for hunting. The war that we are waging against our game animals is not supported by any facts. Over a 23-year period over 50,000 deer were tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (“CWD”), of those deer only 120 came back positive with the initial testing, of those 120 deer, only one came back confirmed by a necropsy testing. That is a 0.00002 percent chance within the 23-year period of a deer being harvested with CWD in our state. That percentage alone does not support our game and fish’s agenda.

Thinking that by restricting supplemental feed for deer that our problem will simply go away is absurd. Deer are herding animals; they are going to herd together whether it be in a field that has been harvested or a food plot specifically planted to feed the deer. They herd together as a form of survival.

CWD is not the issue at hand; the issue that we should be spending our tax dollars on is EHD. Recently EHD has been spreading like wildfire taking out herds of deer all over our state, year after year there are more and more outbreaks, yet you do not see billboards spreading information to our citizens.

We need a change in our game and fish department. The federal agenda of decimating our deer herds over one positive test in over a 23-year period of 50,000 in our state is absurd. I think it is time that we start holding our game and fish department accountable for the oath that they took of protecting our wildlife, not getting to abolish it with no factual evidence to support their decision.

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