

Hello, I am writing you to ask that you oppose SB2137. I am a fourth generation North Dakotan and avid hunter. This bill is ballot box biology and is taking a tool away from our Game and Fish agency to help minimize disease potential in our big game populations. I personally have baited deer and hunted over it in the past and have family that still hunt over bait (in a non CWD unit) and we have seen with trail camera pictures how congregated deer can be with bait piles. Some will say that bait piles are no different than a food plot or a corn field in the winter but I have also seen both of those and they are not the same; bait piles artificially congregate deer at a much higher degree which according to the professionals and scientists increases the likelihood that CWD would transmit and spread. We will stop baiting and supplementally feeding deer if the game and fish determines that our unit should stop the practice of doing so. This is not a private property rights issue, it is an issue of doing what is best for the public resource of wildlife for all current and future residents of this state by letting the professionals do their job.

As legislators for the state of North Dakota you are elected Trustees of the Public Trust which includes the states wildlife, and you are entrusted to protect this resource for current and future beneficiaries of that trust which are all current and future residents of this state. Letting the professionals at the Game and Fish do their job is what is best for the future of our wildlife.

Please oppose SB2137

Thank you,