

SB 2137

Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs
Committee,

I oppose SB 2137. This bill, if passed, would eliminate a tool that has been sparingly utilized by the North Dakota Game and Fish where needed as an effective measure to fight impacts to our deer herd. The Game and Fish Department is an agency of extremely well trained wildlife professionals, who are employed by the citizens to manage our wildlife, and funded by tax payer dollars. Implementing this bill would effectively hamstring their efforts to protect our deer herds.

Many state have outright banned baiting for many years, and the argument that baiting is the only reason that people find success or youth get into hunting is simply not true. The elimination of baiting in certain units will likely increase the opportunity for many hunters who may hunt smaller parcels of land or use public access properties, because deer will return to a natural pattern of movement. I am not here to debate the ethics of baiting, but I am strongly opposed to taking away a tool that our educated professionals have deemed necessary.

The introduction of this bill is a waste of time and energy for legislators during a busy legislative session, as a similar bill was heard and killed during the 2023 session. Please let the skilled and educated staff that work for the very agency that our dollars fund make the decisions they need, and kill this bill in committee. The legislature should leave the biology to the professionals.

Thank you,
Sam Devries
Bismarck, ND