

I am writing this letter to you in support of SB 2137.

Hunting is one of the main reasons that I have stayed in ND and have raised my family here. I grew up hunting with my family and have continued that tradition with my own family.

Bowhunting deer is actually the ONLY opportunity the average citizen of North Dakota has to hunt big game in this state on a yearly basis. Elk, moose, and bighorn sheep are once in a lifetime. Antelope takes 10 to 15 years to draw a tag. A gun deer tag takes 3 to 7 years to draw a tag.

Wh hear all the time that we need to get today's youth involved in the outdoors!!! What a fantastic opportunity it is to sit with a young hunter in a blind over a small pile of corn... and observe wildlife at close range and guide/teach them to take an ethical shot at a deer. Being able to do this on a yearly basis can/will instill that love for the sport that will stay with them!

Similarly, the 'older generation' is still able to continue to hunt big game, which many of them have done for decades. They may not be able to climb a tree, or walk through deep snow, and sit along a trail hoping for a deer to come by, but they can get out and enjoy hunting with a reasonable chance of success (something that they have been doing for 40 or 50 years).

The same goes for any handicapped person that wants to hunt.

Baiting deer simply increases the chance of having an enjoyable and successful hunt.

Feedlots and hay yards may have 100s of deer coming to them to eat for months at a time over the winter. BUT I believe a few pounds of corn on the ground attracting a handful of deer would hardly be a threat to spreading CWD, which is the narrative we hear from our Game and Fish Department.

And on the grounds of 'ethics'... Should we eliminate crossbows, compound bows, retractable broadheads, sights, rangefinders, binoculars and hunt with a spear? Could make the same argument about fishing or any other activity.

We are lucky to have the opportunities that we do have in ND compared to many other states...it would be so unfortunate to lose what we do have!

So, I please urge you to support and vote yes on SB 2137 and keep the hunting heritage strong in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Jamie Risovi

New Rockford