

I'm writing in opposition to SB2137. Since the 2023 session I have read countless studies that point to the lethality of Chronic Wasting Disease. The broad scientific consensus is that this disease is 100% fatal once contracted. By not allowing the Game and Fish Department to ban the practice of baiting as a method of take during the hunting season, you are removing one of the few tools they have to prevent the spread of known contagious prion. We are already at disadvantage of preventing the spread, by allowing feeding of wildlife throughout the remainder of the year. If there is any measurable preventive action we can take to help slow the spread of CWD, we should be utilizing it.

If passed, you'd be setting a dangerous precedent by allowing emotions dictate what is best for the North Dakota deer population, rather than allowing trained and educated employees of the Department, in a specific field, determine what is best for the resource. It has not been uncommon the last few decades for states that have had a strong hunting background to allow legislation to pass that was introduced by individuals that wanted to take away that hunting tradition completely. While I do understand why some may practice baiting, as I have used it in the past, I do not understand their selfish intentions of wanting to use bait over the long-term health of the herd.

Common sense prevailed in the Senate during the 2023 session and I hope it will again. I strongly recommend a DO NOT PASS of SB2137.

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