

SB 2137

Chairman Luick, Honorable Agriculture and Veterans Affairs committee members,

I am writing to urge you to oppose Senate Bill 2137 which was penned by a small special interest group disgruntled with the Game and Fish attempting to do what the ND constitution guides them to do which is manage the states wildlife resources for the good of all citizens of our State. The issue of stemming Chronic Wasting Disease was hashed out two years ago in the last legislative session, and the information and real world case studies since then have only strengthened, if not proven, that defeating this same Bill was the right decision back then.

This is absolutely not a property rights issue. The wildlife of our state are held as a Public Trust for all citizens, which is why I have absolutely no problem as a hunter and a taxpayer providing private landowners compensation if my (our) deer cause damage to either their property or income stream. Robust populations can be an inconvenience to those working the land that interfaces or contains the habitats needed to support them, but the enjoyment I obtain from seeing, hunting, and consuming our big game is well worth spending my sportsman and tax dollars to offset any issues they cause. I do have a huge problem with a small group of individuals thinking they know better than the trained professionals and pushing for scenarios that have been shown to have negative population level impacts and from which there is no current evidence of any ability to reverse. Whereas the majority of our citizens are more than happy to make sacrifices to compensate private landowners, why is it that activities which occur on private land that threaten my (our) deer can't be regulated by trained wildlife professionals using the best information available to ensure the best possible outcomes in the face of a novel and devastating disease? It has always been and needs to continue to be a two way relationship for something held as a Public Trust for the benefit of all citizens of our great state. Please vote NO on this selfish bill.

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