

I'm writing in opposition to SB2137. ND Game and Fish is made up of knowledgeable professionals whose job it is to protect our wildlife. If they aren't the best ones to decide what hunting practices are a danger to our wildlife, then who is? It would be completely irresponsible to take wildlife management out of the hands of wildlife experts. The herd should be protected so that there will be a herd for generations to come. We have to care more about the future of the herd, than of our desire to bait deer so that we can have an "easy fill" of a deer tag. Unfortunately, many North Dakota hunters are physically unable to walk out to hunt a deer, and while I am sympathetic to that, I believe that in the grand scheme of things, if we're not careful about monitoring CWD (and how baiting affects the spread) and allowing proper officials to make necessary decisions about the health of the herd, then we might get into a situation where no one can hunt at all because the herd is basically gone. Instead of bowing to the testimonies from those

claiming that they "need" to bait, or have the "right to" bait, we should think logically and stand firm with the stance that the herd is more important than any one person. And the herd belongs to the people of North Dakota, not to the property owner. This bill was defeated last session, and I would like to see it defeated again. Vote NO on Bill SB 2137.

-Kelly Hale

District 5 - Minot