

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
SENATE BILL 2368
SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
February 13, 2025

Chairman Luick and Members of the Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). On behalf of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation, we are writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 2368. As an organization dedicated to the conservation of wildlife, habitat, and access for North Dakota's hunters, anglers, and other outdoor users, we recognize the importance of this legislation in promoting conservation through land management and the importance of North Dakota's grasslands for ranching, wildlife, and hunting opportunity.

Senate Bill 2368 supports conservation, responsible land use, and regenerative grazing practices. A key component of this bill is the Grasslands Grazing Grant Program, which will provide funding to organizations representing cooperative grazing associations. This program will support essential infrastructure projects, including water development, fencing, conservation initiatives, and would still comply with federal permitting requirements. Additionally, it will enhance wildlife habitats, improve grassland health, and make the state more prepared for emergencies like wildfires.

By enacting Senate Bill 2368, North Dakota will reinforce its commitment to preserving its ranching and outdoor heritage, ensuring that hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation remain accessible for future generations. The integration of responsible grazing practices and conservation-focused initiatives will further protect critical habitats while maintaining the balance between agricultural and environmental interests.

We hope that the Department of Agriculture prioritizes this program and finds new funding opportunities to bring this program to life. We would not be supportive of the bill if it were to rob from an existing grant program that had similar goals.

We urge a favorable recommendation on Senate Bill 2368, as written, and ask that you continue advocating for policies that support North Dakota's ranching and outdoor heritages. Thank you for your time and commitment to the future of our state's ranching and hunting community.