

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY  
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
SENATE BILL 2168  
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 23, 2025

Chairman Patten and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). NDWF is opposed to SB 2168.

While we understand the intent of promoting safety, we believe that the current statute largely accomplishes these objectives while retaining access to public lands and the rights of landowners to use their own property as they see fit.

SB 2168 would be a significant set-back to property rights in North Dakota. If passed, neighboring landowners would control hunting access on not only their land, but upon any other land, public or private, within 440 yards of any building or structure. In many instances, landowners would need to ask for and receive permission to hunt their own land and non-landowners would need to receive permission from both the landowner and the neighboring landowners before legally being able to hunt. This bill would also require individuals to ask for and receive permission from neighboring landowners to hunt on all public lands, including Game and Fish Wildlife Management Areas and Private Land Open to Sportsmen areas, that were within 440 yards of any building or structure.

Passing this bill would have a negative impact on hunting in North Dakota, where hunting access and opportunity are already diminishing. Hunters could also be put into situations where they may not even know they are within 440 yards of a structure due to the landscape or condition of the structure and be in violation of the law without any knowing

We are also concerned that this would create an undue burden for the Game and Fish Department to work with cities and townships to develop special deer/turkey reduction hunts in urban areas where high wildlife numbers cause property damage for many property owners.