



January 23, 2025

Chairman Patten (District 26)
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Peace Garden Room – North Dakota State Capitol
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505

Vice-Chair Kessel (District 39)
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Peace Garden Room – North Dakota State Capitol
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Senate Bill 2168, *A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 20.1-01-21 of the North Dakota Century Code; relating to hunting near buildings, occupied structures, or storage structures.*

Position: OPPOSE

Chairman Patten and Vice-Chairman Kessel,

On behalf of Delta Waterfowl members, both in the state of North Dakota and across the United States, I want to thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony in **opposition to Senate Bill 2168**, legislation that seeks to prohibit individuals from hunting or pursuing game within 440 yards of any building, occupied structure, or storage structure without obtaining the consent of the property owner.

For some background, Delta Waterfowl is the largest organization in North America dedicated to ducks and duck hunters. Founded at the famed Delta Marsh in Manitoba in 1911, with its United States headquarters here in Bismarck, North Dakota, Delta Waterfowl works to promote and protect the continuing tradition of waterfowl hunting across North America – including here in North Dakota.

While we certainly appreciate and respect the safety concerns and the desire to protect private property of the bill sponsor, we respectfully urge the members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to oppose this short-sighted legislation.

Specifically, this legislation would create a quarter-mile distance requirement for sportsmen and women to legally hunt on property they own or lease, essentially requiring citizens of North Dakota to have access to hundreds of contiguous acres to legally hunt, negatively impacting their ability to use their property as they choose.

Additionally, the buffer created by the legislation would negatively impact the use of state-owned Wildlife Management Areas, PLOTS lands and other public lands commonly used by hunters. We strongly feel that any perceived safety concerns can already be adequately addressed by the North Dakota Game and Fish and local and state law enforcement with existing laws and regulations on the books.



If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me directly at cbaird@deltawaterfowl.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cy Baird". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cyrus Hunter Baird
Senior Director of Government Affairs
Delta Waterfowl Foundation