

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
SENATE BILL 2199
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). We are opposed to SB 2199. NDWF believes our service members and veterans deserve the utmost respect, we are put in a hard position to testify against this bill. We struggle with opening up the deer lottery to recognize service. With potentially thousands of North Dakota veterans who would be eligible for this tag, we feel that the pressure that this would put on the resource would be significant. Additionally, there are no restrictions on what type of deer license they could select, meaning units where it could take anywhere from 5-15 years for the general lottery hunter to draw a tag, could be given out year after year to a disabled veteran.

Currently there are options for disabled veterans to participate in hunts, including the Camp Grafton Annual Disabled Veteran Deer Hunt and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park cow elk cull.

We believe there are other ways outside of weakening the deer lottery to recognize the sacrifice that veterans have made. We urge a Do Not Pass on SB 2199.