

Dear legislators,

I appreciate you taking the time to read my testimony in support of SB2216.

This bill will raise much needed funding for our youth hunter recruitment efforts to help keep North Dakota's waterfowl hunting heritage going strong. It is shown that resident hunter numbers are in decline, yet youth shooting sports is the fastest growing sport in the state - and we need to capitalize on that. It also will create more funding for habitat and conservation, pivotal players in everyone's waterfowl hunting experience.

Currently North Dakota does not have a black and white way of measuring how many resident waterfowl hunters there actually are in the state. This bill will create a mechanism for gathering that data to help further protect North Dakota's waterfowl hunting legacy and heritage.

It is a small price that I will gladly pay to help our youth hunters, habitat, and data system. It is time to move forward and be proactive in these efforts.