

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
SENATE BILL 2216
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 30, 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 supports the intent of the bill, and we urge a Do Pass on SB 2216 once amended. We would like the bill to target waterfowl hunters only (current language includes all small game hunters) and require non-residents to also be included. These changes would increase the funds raised for waterfowl conservation and youth hunting.

A dedicated waterfowl license for North Dakota waterfowlers would serve several purposes. The dollars generated from the license would be used to provide waterfowl habitat with the state, engage the next generation of waterfowl hunters through desperately needed youth hunting opportunities. The last major benefit would be to provide the North Dakota Game and Fish with a tool to determine how many resident vs. non-resident waterfowl hunters there are in the state, creating better data through targeted harvest surveys.

We realize there is another bill on the House side that is addressing broader license fees. NDWF is also supportive of that effort. North Dakota waterfowl hunters have stepped up, met across the state, and are now asking for this waterfowl license. We urge a Do Pass on SB 2216.