

Chairman Patten and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Bryan Jochim residing in Bismarck N.D District 47.

I am submitting testimony in support of SB2216 with the proposed amendment submitted.

Annually the Game and Fish Department publishes a recap of the of Licenses and Permits issued in the State for that operating year. Unfortunately, each year the Resident Waterfowl Licenses sold is blank. When you request that information from the Department, they can only provide an estimate or guesstimate. I believe the proposed Waterfowl Habitat Restoration Stamp will provide the mechanism for the Department to track Resident Waterfowl license sold. I am confident this will provide the Department better fact-based information to make decisions as needed.

The \$10.00 Waterfowl Habitat Restoration Stamp fee will provide needed funding towards increasing waterfowl habitat across the State of N.D. Currently South Dakota has Habitat Stamp (\$10.00) providing funds for Habitat Projects. Also, Montana has a Duck Stamp (\$10.00) to raise awareness and funds for wetland conservation. ND has a tremendous resource with Wildlife and Habitat, and we need to ensure that remains for years to come.

I was part of a team and still on the board of directors that created a non-profit organization called Capital City Young Guns in 2017. CCYG provides an avenue for youth to participate in shotgunning sports by providing education and materials necessary for safe, enjoyable, and successful experiences. CCYG provides instruction with certified instructors, ammunition, targets, and shotguns for use while going through the program with NO Cost to any youth. High School Trap shooting is one of the fastest growing sports in our state currently. Recognizing youth as our future it is important we provide hunting programs to get kids introduced and involved in hunting. We can make that investment through the Waterfowl Habitat Restoration Stamp to ensure the heritage of hunting is intact for years to come.

I am asking for a DO PASS on SB2216.

Bryan Jochim