



House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on SB 2309

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Bill Haase, Assistant Wildlife Division Chief
February 6, 2025

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Bill Haase, and I serve as the Assistant Wildlife Division Chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department). I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 2309.

Expanding youth hunting opportunities is a top priority for the Department. In recent years, participation in the antlerless youth gun deer license has steadily increased. Currently, this opportunity is available to youth who turn 11, 12, or 13 in the year of the hunt and is limited to antlerless whitetail deer.

SB 2309 would provide the governor's proclamation with the flexibility to include antlerless mule deer in this season. This change would allow us to expand youth hunting opportunities in units where mule deer populations can support additional harvest.

For these reasons, the Department respectfully urges the committee to issue a "Do Pass" recommendation for SB 2309. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions.