

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Testimony on SB 2309 (IN FAVOR)

Kurt Swenson, Beulah, ND District 33

Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Kurt Swenson from Beulah. .

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB 2309.

I have been perplexed over the years why the exceptional youth deer hunting season for youth ages 11, 12 and 13 was limited to whitetail deer only. Many of us live in areas that are dominated by mule deer or have sustainable huntable populations of mule deer and white-tail deer.

We open our land up for the youth deer hunting season every year, but were not able to offer the 11–13-year-olds an opportunity due to EHD decimating the whitetail population a few years back. Yet, we had excellent numbers of mule deer that could have been harvested by these youth, and the current statute denies them this opportunity. It also denies us as a landowner the ability to use this youth season to help manage the deer herd in our local area.

I respectfully ask you to vote DO PASS vote on SB 2309.