

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2271

2005 SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 2271

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2271

Senate Natural Resources Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 27, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		1.0 - 9.0
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Janet James</i>			

Minutes:

Senator Stanley Lyson Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee brought the committee to order.

Attendance was taken with all committee members present.

Senator Lyson opened the hearing on SB 2271, relating to the opening date of pheasant season for youth.

Senator Aaron Krauter, of District 31, cosponsor of SB 2217 stated he introduced the bill for several reasons. He presented the story of his experience introducing hunting to his son. How they attended hunter safety together and the valuable lessons they each learned from the other. He further listed the family values that hunting teaches such as responsibility about property and firearms. After having a good but unsuccessful hunting weekend with some friends, he gave it some thought as to develop an early opening pheasant season for youth similar to the youth seasons established for deer and waterfowl. The concept he developed would be a week of the

Page 2

Senate Natural Resources Committee

Bill/Resolution Number SB 2271

Hearing Date 1-27-05

hunter safety trained youth hunting with an unarmed adult. This would be a positive experience for the youth with the guidance from the adult.

Drew Molesworth a youth hunter and Boy Scout working on his Communications Merit Badge testified in support of SB 2217 (See attached testimony).

Senator John Traynor asked what kind of gun he used for hunting.

Drew Molesworth stated he used 28 pump shot gun.

Written testimony in support of SB 2271 from **Harold Neameyer** of the Cass County Wildlife Club, **Mike Donahue** of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation and the United Sportmen of North Dakota and **Curtis Blohm** of the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Coalition was distributed to the committee.

Senator Lyson asked for opposing testimony.

Paul Schadewald, Chief Director of Administration for the North Dakota State Game and Fish Department testified that the department had no problem with the bill and would follow the directive of the legislature.

Senator Lyson closed the hearing on SB 2271.

Senator Heitkamp made a motion for a Do Pass of SB 2271.

Senator Ben Tollefson second the motion.

Roll call vote was taken indicating 7 YEAS, 0 NAYS AND 0 ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Senator Heitkamp will carry SB 2271.

FISCAL NOTE
 Requested by Legislative Council
 01/18/2005

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2271

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2. **Narrative:** *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

This one day early youth pheasant season for youth hunters is not expected to significantly affect revenue or expenditures for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

None.

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

None.

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

Name:	Paul Schadewald	Agency:	ND Game and Fish Department
Phone Number:	328-6328	Date Prepared:	01/18/2005

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 27, 2005 12:27 p.m.

Module No: SR-18-1193
Carrier: Heitkamp
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2271: Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Lyson, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2271 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2005 HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 2271

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2271

House Natural Resources Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date **March 4, 2005**

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
3	x		3510-5994
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Loren Bonnet</i>			

Minutes:

Chr. Jon O. Nelson: I will open the hearing on SB 2271 and ask the clerk to read the title.

Quorum present, Rep. Keiser absent.

Sen. Aaron Krauter, Dist. 31: SB 2271 basically sets up a youth season for hunting pheasants.

I came up with this idea, similar to what we do for waterfowl and deer. Last legislative session, my son and I took the Hunter Education Safety Course. By my age, I didn't have to take it, but what I learned, I picked up from my Dad and my friends. When I went to the Hunter Safety Course, I thought the Game and Fish was doing a great job. The first meeting they talked about responsibility of people, their property and firearms. They honed in on those right things that you try to teach your kids. Their authority reinforced that. That fall, I was hunting with my son, after the opening. After that second weekend, the birds were skittish. My son didn't get many opportunities to get a bird, but he got some good shots and it was a good experience. In thinking about it and visiting with other friends, we thought we needed to give a better opportunity to

allow the youth to get that good experience. We came up with the idea of a youth hunt. That concept is the bill you have in front of you, a youth hunting season for pheasants. Some of the criteria that I thought was so important was hunter safety. To be involved in the youth hunt, youth must take the Hunter Safety Course, be in the ages of 12-16, and they have to be there with a *licensed* (speaker's emphasis) adult and who is *not* (speaker's emphasis) carrying a firearm. That adult can supervise and mentor what to look for. You can take all the hunter safety classes you want, but until you are in the field and put into action, you can't see the tailfeathers, the colors, and know it's a rooster. The bill is set up to be the Friday before the opening of pheasant season, which is the second Saturday in October.

Chr. Nelson: Are there any questions?

Rep. Lyle Hanson: I have a proposed amendment to change to the Saturday and Sunday prior to the main opening. Friday is a school day, you have football, volleyball, cross country and some kids couldn't take advantage of it. Would you oppose the Saturday and Sunday prior to the general opening?

Krauter: I had thought of that and visited with some of the co-sponsors. The issue of the deer youth hunt came up. When deer season begins, it's like a holiday at school. Kids take off, so it doesn't seem to be that much of an issue. If the committee thinks it's that important that we do it on a Friday or Saturday, I don't think that is a burning desire. The only thing I would caution is that as we look at that opening day of pheasant season, not all the birds are in full color, yet. There are late hatches, some of the birds aren't mature and we need to be cognizant of that.

Chr. Nelson: Further questions?

Rep. Todd Porter: On Line 22, talking about the adult not being to carry a firearm in the field, there are other legal seasons open during that time, upland game, grouse, partridge. How are we going to enforce that provision? Is it enforceable or do we need to discuss it with the Game & Fish Department?

Krauter: That is a valid question, but hunting is on an honor system, that you respect and abide by the proclamation rights. If you have a young hunter with you, why do you want to set a bad example? If you feel that needs to be tweaked with the Department's guidance, I don't have a problem with that. I try to instill in my son to do things right.

Hanson: To answer his question, if you hunt big horn, elk or moose, you can't have somebody else with a gun with you. So it's the same thing, and they do that by Proclamation.

Chr. Nelson: Further questions? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. Is there further supporting testimony?

Drew Molesworth, 12 yr. old student: (Written testimony attached)

Chr. Nelson: You've heard Rep. Hanson's proposed amendment that would provide two extra days rather than getting out of school on the Friday before pheasant season. Which would you prefer?

Molesworth: I thought you could leave it up to the parents. If the child has good grades and they can be taken out of school for a couple hours, that would be fine. But if they don't have good grades, then they can't be taken out of school. They could then get four-five hours (of hunting) between school and sunset.

Chr. Nelson: Are there any further questions?

Rep. Porter: Have you had the opportunity to utilize the Game & Fish program where individual landowners put stickers on their posted signs, saying "Youth hunters welcome, please come up and ask." Have you run across any of them?

Molesworth: At the Senate, a senator welcomed me to hunt on his posted land. It was for youth only.

Rep. Duane DeKrey: Did you get your merit badges at Camp Wilderness?

Molesworth: Yes, I did.

Rep. Dorvan Solberg: We have a number of people testify in front of this committee. Most of the adults are not nearly as cool as you are. Keep up the good work.

Molesworth: Thank you.

Rep. Lyle Hanson: Have you hunted the Youth Opener for Waterfowl?

Molesworth: No, I haven't. I'm mostly hooked on upland game.

Hanson: How about the Youth Opener for Deer?

Molesworth: No, I haven't hunted deer, either.

Mike Donahue, ND Wildlife Federation and the United Sportsmen of ND: We support SB 2271. We supported it in the Senate, too. Our group did have a discussion about the Saturday/Sunday before, not involving taking kids out of school on Friday, but came to the conclusion that we'd leave that up to the parents and school.

Chr. Nelson: Are there any questions? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. Is there further supporting testimony?

Harold Neameyer, Cass County Wildlife Club: (Written testimony attached)

Chr. Nelson: Are there any questions?

Rep. Hanson: I think ages ten or eleven can't take the Hunter Safety Course. You have to be 12 to be able to take it?

Neameyer: That is correct.

Chr. Nelson: I believe there is some flexibility with eleven year olds.

Hanson: You can hunt, but you can't take the Hunter Safety Course.

Neameyer: It's my understanding that you can't take the Hunter Safety until you are twelve.

Chr. Nelson: Further questions? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. Is there further supporting testimony?

Dennis Daniel: I'm in support of this bill. I also want to tell you that I'm awful proud of that young man. That is my great grand nephew. My sister is his grandmother and I'm extremely proud of this young man.

Chr. Nelson: Are there any questions? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. I should take this opportunity to thank you for the elk summer sausage you brought in the other day.

Daniel: Thank you.

Chr. Nelson: Is there further supporting testimony? Seeing none, is there opposition to SB 2271? Seeing none, I'll close the hearing on SB 2271.

Rep. Hanson: The reason I put the amendment out for your perusal, it's two days. Waterfowl gets two days, the Youth Deer gets maybe a week or two, and one day doesn't seem like enough. With that, I'll move the amendment.

Chr. Nelson: Why don't we wait until next week when we have a full committee. We have a quorum but I would feel better with a full committee voting.

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. **SB 2271**

House Natural Resources Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date **March 11, 2005**

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	1520-2980
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Karen Bonnet</i>			

Minutes:

Chr. Jon O. Nelson: Let's take up SB 2271. Quorum present, Rep. Drovdal and Rep. Solberg absent.

Rep. Lyle Hanson: You have about three choices on this bill. Run the bill like it's written, or amend it to the Saturday/Sunday prior to the general opening, or kill the bill and have the department put it in by proclamation. The deer is in proclamation, the waterfowl is in proclamation, this would put the pheasant opener in by proclamation.

Rep. Todd Porter: Could Mr. Rostvet come forward and answer some questions on this? Mr. Rostvet, currently the youth duck season and youth deer season were put in administratively by the Department?

Roger Rostvet, Dep. Dir. ND Game & Fish: That's correct. Proclamation allows us to set seasons, time, manner and (unintelligible).

Porter: Have you had a lot of inquiries and interested parties in doing something like this early pheasant opener?

Rostvet: There has not been as much interest in pheasant hunting as there was in deer. The waterfowl was our initiative because we're losing young waterfowl hunters. We looked at it as a retention and recruitment tool. We looked at deer the same way. Upland game hunting was increasing so we didn't look at that as a driving force behind opening season. There wasn't as much interest in pheasant season. Also, by the time you're that far into season there is a challenge in finding non-conflicting days.

Porter: From the testimony and interested parties in doing something like this, short of putting it in code, would the Department look at this and move forward with the concept to further enhance getting our youth involved in hunting?

Rostvet: We've never hunted that Friday before season. That's probably an original idea that would work. We felt that picking up some time out of the week that schools would be offended by that. We didn't hear many variations of it. If this group gives direction to develop a season we could easily do that. It would be nice to know (unintelligible).

Rep. Mike Norland: I just don't see the point in this bill. First of all, the bill comes out and wants the youth to hunt one day before the season opens up. What's the point of that? Why not wait one more day and go out with your father or brother the next day? To move it back as some amendments wanted, and to move it back a week, there are enough problems with young birds on opening weekend without moving it back *another* (speaker's emphasis) week. Probably some of those youth are shooting hens. I will oppose the bill. I don't oppose the youth bill, but I don't think it's necessary. Roger has testified that there is *not* (speaker's emphasis) a demand. They

probably haven't had one phone call. Someone thought of it while he was hunting out in the field with his son and put a bill in. I don't think it's necessary.

Chr. Nelson: Further committee discussion?

Rep. Dawn Marie Charging: My main concern is that schools will see a loss of students on that day. From what I understand, we have enough problems keeping our kids in school. It would be my recommendation that if we do pass the bill that we at least open it on the weekend so that we don't see kids pulled out of school.

Chr. Nelson: The Hanson amendment that was offered the day of the testimony does just that, on the prior weekend. Of course, as you've heard from Rep. Norland, there are issues with that as well. I think the idea behind this bill is that there is a lot of pressure on the opening weekend. If you can allow a young person whose first hunt may be as good an experience as possible, I think they will be involved in the sport longer. I'm supportive of the concept. I don't know the practical aspect of it. If we killed the bill, Roger, would you seriously consider doing this?

Rostvet: If you killed the bill with the directions to the Department that we implement one, we would probably implement it. It isn't quite accurate that we haven't had *any* (speaker's emphasis) calls. The Hettinger area has some interest in it. We haven't implemented it because of some other conflicts. In our perception, as a factual thing, the need didn't warrant itself. But there's nothing wrong with it. We could implement it.

Chr. Nelson: Last session, we had an understanding that we had a proposed amendment to create waterfowl rest areas across the state and that same answer, "We can do this within the Private Lands Initiative and create a buffer around these waterfowl rest areas where there is some payment to landowners." Two years later, I don't think it's been used once. If we want this to

happen, I don't have a problem having it take place in the bill because that is a directive. Things get put on the back burner if we do it by proclamation. If this is a big enough issue that you want this season, I think a bill is the proper vehicle.

Rep. Bob Hunskor: Three issues, number one, we need to stay away from school (time). The second thing is, this is good for youth. It is a good training for them for adult hunting. If we haven't got many people doing it, there doesn't seem to be much interest according to Roger. Is that going to have a great effect on the fact that it's too early?

Charging: All of us have been hunting all of our lives. Some seasons, depending on the spring hatch, we've had young birds in the field. That is a discipline that a hunter learns, and if you have a question you don't shoot. I share the concern but I don't believe it's an issue. You simply make the choice, you either shoot or you don't shoot. If the bird has colors you shoot it, if it doesn't, you don't shoot.

Rep. Mike Norland: I'm all for the issue of young hunters having an opportunity to hunt. If they hunt with their mother or father, what's the difference if they go out on the opener. Are we saying that is the only time the father (has to take them out). I think at a certain age they can't go out by themselves. What's the point if the father takes them out and carries a gun then? If you want your son to shoot a rooster, you're not going (to shoot it first). If we set it up earlier, we're saying they are not responsible enough that we're going to take their gun away from them because they're going to shoot the bird before the youth hunter is. If we do this (bill) we're saying them they can't do it because we're telling them in the bill they can't carry a gun.

Rep. Lyle Hanson: The original bill I don't like. If that's a school day, we have all kinds of sport activities that day. Second, how many fathers are going to take a day off work to go out

with their son or daughter on an opening on a Friday? Saturday is little different, they might not be working. If you don't live in pheasant country you might have to take two days off to drive to the Friday opening.

Rep. Bob Hunsakor: If there isn't much pressure, is that going to hurt the birds that haven't matured that much? Isn't it good for these youth to hunt with their Dad or Mom when there isn't hunting pressure? When they're more alone, parents can talk to the young people about what is right and wrong.

Rep. George J. Keiser: When Game & Fish had an issue with waterfowl in terms of number of hunters, number of birds, they created an appropriate management policy. I think rather than us dictating this, we should allow them to determine whether the demand is there, whether there is a problem. I don't see a problem with this legislation. I don't support it. There aren't many inquiries.

Rep. Darrell D. Nottestad: I move a do not pass on SB 2271.

Rep. Mike Norland: Second.

Chr. Nelson: A do not pass motion has been made by Rep. Nottestad, seconded by Rep. Norland. Is there further committee discussion?

Rep. Duane DeKrey: Question

Chr. Nelson: Question has been called on a do not pass motion. Call the roll:

Do not pass, vote:

7-Yeas; 5-Nays; 2-Absent; CARRIER: Norland

50711.0101
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Hanson
March 3, 2005

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2271

Page 1, line 17, replace "that the" with "an" and remove "is open not"

Page 1, line 18, remove "earlier than one-half hour before sunrise" and replace "Friday" with "Saturday and Sunday"

Page 1, line 23, replace "Friday" with "Saturday and Sunday"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3/11/05
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB2271

House NATURAL RESOURCES Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____ :

Action Taken : Do Not Pass *14th order*

Motion Made By : Nottestad Seconded By : Norland

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman - Rep. Jon O. Nelson		✓	Rep. Lyle Hanson	✓	
Vice Chairman - Todd Porter		✓	Rep. Bob Hunsakor		✓
Rep. Dawn Marie Charging		✓	Rep. Scot Kelsh		✓
Rep. Donald L. Clark	✓		Rep. Dorvan Solberg	<i>Abso.</i>	
Rep. Duane DeKrey	✓				
Rep. David Drovdal	<i>Abso.</i>				
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓				
Rep. George J. Keiser	✓				
Rep. Mike Norland	✓				
Rep. Darrell D. Nottestad	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 5

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Norland

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 11, 2005 2:13 p.m.

Module No: HR-45-4788
Carrier: Norland
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2271: Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Nelson, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (7 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2271 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2005 TESTIMONY

SB 2271

For the record, my name is Drew Molesworth. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am here today to testify on the Senate Bill 2271.

I am twelve years old and I am a hunter. I would like to give you a little personal history so you know how serious I am about the sport.

When I first got interested in hunting, I started in BB gun safety. I went through a class at the World War Memorial building and learned about gun safety and how to handle a gun. I also went through a hunter safety class and passed.

After gun safety, I started on archery. I went through three levels and I had a great time. During and after this time period, I entered four tournaments, two of which I won First place. I shoot a traditional re-curve bow because I think it is more challenging and sporting.

As a Boy Scout, I earned the rifle merit badge. I went through three weeks of .22 caliber rifle shooting and safety, learning about both rim fire and center fire rifles.

Also in Boy Scouts, I earned the shotgun merit badge. We learned about safety, care and cleaning of shotguns, and shooting skills. To pass the class we had to shoot 24 out of 50 clays.

My first hunting experience was with doves and grouse. A couple of days we went out without any luck. But we finally ran into some up by Williston. My dad, my grandpa and I all got birds, but I out shot them both.

I learned about good landowner relationships during turkey season. I met some nice ranchers who invited me to hunt on their property and even offered to let us stay at their farm so we wouldn't have to drive so far.

Now I will get to the point that I am here to talk about. Pheasant hunting.

This year was my first season actually carrying a gun and hunting pheasants. Over several different hunts, I walked 24 hours and got 3 chances to shoot. Unfortunately, I didn't bring a bird home this year.

I usually hunt public land, and due to school I usually hunt on weekends. That combination usually makes it hard to find birds because people have already been there. The Game and Fish Department has done a good job of making land available for hunters, but on weekends there is a lot of competition for good hunting land. That is why I am excited to hear about Senate Bill 2271. Even though next year I plan to work hard at building more good relationships with landowners, the chance to hunt either public or private land before all of the adults will give me a better chance at bringing home a bird.

Kids are the future of hunting. If kids lose interest, there will be no adults in the future to spread the word about how fun this sport really is.

I hear that you are always looking for ways to keep young adults living in North Dakota. Hunting is one of the best things about living in North Dakota. If you really want to keep young people in this state, get them hooked on hunting. Other than my family, hunting is one of the main reasons I will keep living here.



Cass County
WILDLIFE CLUB

Box 336
Casselton, ND 58012



TESTIMONY OF HAROLD NEAMEYER
CASS COUNTY WILDLIFE CLUB
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE

ON

SB 2271

JANUARY 27, 2005

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Club supports the intent to provide youth with any reasonable opportunity to hunt or fish on times designed especially for them. We support this bill, but the concern is about school attendance.

Another question, can I take two grandkids on this hunt, or must there be two adults in attendance?

We hope these problems can be solved for the benefit of the youth.



North Dakota Wildlife Federation

Abundant wildlife and wildlife habitat, and access to wildlife recreational opportunities



1/27/2005

For: Senate Natural Resources Committee

Ref: SB2271

The United Sportsmen of North Dakota and the North Dakota Wildlife Federation support this bill and recommend a do pass.

We believe there may be some concerns about time in/out of school. However, that is a family matter.

At lines 21, 22 and 23, since the adult cannot carry a firearm we do not see why the adult needs a license.

We support the objective of this bill.

Thank you,
Mike Donahue
Lobbyist #275



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Office Manager: 701-222-2557 • 1-888-827-2557 • Web: www.ndwf.org

Senate Bill No. 2271

Reference: Relating to establishing a youth pheasant hunting season.

Senate Natural Resources Committee

Hearing Date: January 27, 2005

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman and Committee members. My name is Curtis Blohm. I appear before you today representing the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Coalition. This coalition was founded out of the need for representation before the legislative committee by North Dakota citizens concerned for the preservation of our unique outdoor recreational heritage.

The Outdoor Heritage Coalition supports this bill enthusiastically as it encourages parent and youth to actively participate in outdoor recreational activities and it offers youth a chance to enjoy hunting in a stress free and noncompetitive manner.

Thank you.

MISSION STATEMENT NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOOR HERITAGE COALITION

The North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Coalition was founded out of the need to have representation of North Dakota citizens concerned with the preservation of their unique recreational heritage. Its members believe and support the following:

- a. The necessity of preserving and fostering the underlying principals of the Public Trust Doctrine and in preserving high quality outdoor recreational opportunities.
- b. The belief that North Dakota's fish and wildlife resources must be kept as publicly held resources, owned and managed by the State of North Dakota for the long-term benefit and enjoyment of its citizens.
- c. To work to create and maintain a fair distribution of our outdoor recreational opportunities, giving preference to our resident sportsmen.
- d. To seek to minimize the affect of commercial operations on our publicly held resources and recreational opportunities by limiting the number of commercial operations and the amount of land under their control.
- e. We support programs that open private land to access for outdoor recreation especially those that are community-based because of the associated economic benefit.
- f. We support the increased acquisition of public use lands for outdoor recreation such as the PLOTS program.
- g. Be an advocate for restrictions on the use of North Dakota's resources which serve to guarantee that all participants have satisfying quality outdoor experiences well into the future.

The North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Coalition believes that the State's fish and wildlife resources must be kept a publicly held resource, owned and managed by the State, for the long-term benefit and enjoyment of its citizens.

By: Harold Neameyer

Cass County
WILDLIFE CLUB

Box 336
Casselton, ND 58012



TESTIMONY OF HAROLD NEAMEYER
CASS COUNTY WILDLIFE CLUB
PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ON

SB 2271
March 4, 2005

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Club supports a youth hunt prior to the regular pheasant opener. We already have a youth deer and duck season, and this adds to the effort to get youth involved.

The Club would support an amendment to allow all youth 16 and younger to be included in this bill. With all the other activities kids have in today's world, it is important to get especially the 10 and 11 year olds included in hunting before they get too involved in other interests.

Please give this bill a **DO PASS**.



For the record, my name is Drew Molesworth. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am here today to testify on Senate Bill 2271.

I am twelve years old and I am a hunter. I would like to give you a little personal history so you know how serious I am about the sport.

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I usually hunt public land, and due to school I usually hunt on weekends. That combination usually makes it hard to find birds because people have already been there. The Game and Fish Department has done a good job of making land available for hunters, but on weekends there is a lot of competition for good hunting land. That is why I am excited to hear about Senate Bill 2271. Even though next year I plan to work hard at building more good relationships with landowners, the chance to hunt either public or private land before all of the adults will give me a better chance at bringing home a bird.

Kids are the future of hunting. If kids lose interest, there will be no adults in the future to spread the word about how fun this sport really is.

I hear that you are always looking for ways to keep young adults living in North Dakota. Hunting is one of the best things about living in North Dakota. If you really want to keep young people in this state, get them hooked on hunting. Other than my family, hunting is one of the main reasons I will keep living here.