



January 19, 2021

The Honorable Todd Porter
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

The Sportsmen's Alliance is a leading national organization that works to advance and protect our Great American Outdoor Heritage. I am writing today in support of ND H 1242, legislation which would extend apprentice hunting an additional year for those who purchased apprentice licenses in 2020-2021. However, we request the committee consider expanding the opportunity to three years, which would greatly increase the effectiveness of apprentice licenses as a hunting recruitment tool.

Research conducted by the Sportsmen's Alliance, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio Division of Wildlife found that nearly 91% of people who purchase an apprentice license at least three times will go on to complete a hunter's education course and purchase a regular hunting license. Equally important, data compiled nationally over a twelve year period has shown that apprentice hunters are actually six times more safe than regular hunters because they are closely mentored. Because of this incredible safety record, North Dakota legislators can be confident that expending this opportunity for up to three years is both safe and an effective means of encouraging newcomers into hunting.

North Dakota's three neighboring states: Minnesota, Montana and South Dakota all offer multi-year apprentice hunting licenses, along with a total of twenty-seven states. Because of the successful experiences of other states and the encouraging supporting research, we believe that North Dakota should do the same.

We look forward to the opportunity to further discuss this legislation further and hope to be a resource to this committee. The Alliance has been the national leader on apprentice hunting licenses and would be happy to provide amendment language if the bill sponsor and committee chairman are open to the idea.

Best personal regards,

Jacob M. Hupp
Associate Director of State Services
Sportsmen's Alliance