

January 27, 2021

House Energy and Natural Resource Committee
Written testimony in opposition to H.B. 1411

Chairman Porter and Committee members

I would like to express my opposition to HB 1411. How much night hunting do we need? There is already a time frame for night hunting, beginning after the deer gun season thru mid March, same as the snaring season. This time frame was chosen to not interfere with the deer gun season, to begin after the deer gun season is over.

My question is why do these night hunters need so much more time? There are ads in the Minot paper, Need your coyotes cleaned out, we'll get em in one night. So if this is so effective, why would more time be needed?

As far as fur quality goes, anything before the middle of October is poor at best. After the 20th-24th, are getting decent. The word prime is getting tossed around a lot, which is defined by when the hair is done growing and there is no longer blood in the hair growing follicle, and the inside of the skin is white, not blue, which happens about the middle of November.

Why would we want to place this undo hardship on our game wardens? As summer is winding down, and fall is approaching, things in their lives are just beginning to ramp up. Fishing going on yet, early goose season, bird season around the corner, then waterfowl season, pheasant, now some want night hunting thrown in there also. When are the wardens to sleep?

Talking with several wardens about having night hunting year round, which would focus it mostly in those weeks before deer gun season, and their opinion was, would be bad, bad, bad!

Why open up this can of worms? Green lites, night vision, and suppressors, sounds like a recipe for disaster to me.

If this is to go thru, HB 1411 or companion bill, SB 2211, looks like Terry Steinwand and crew would need to approach the Legislature, again, and ask for more money so they can have a day crew and a night crew of wardens. For these reasons Chairman Porter, I would urge a Do Not pass on HB 1411.

Bruce Willyard
431 69th Ave. SE
Carrington, N D 58421
701-653-5783 cell