

## **Chairman Porter, Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee**

My Name is David Dewald, I'm currently the President of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation and was a member of the interim committee studying hunter access to public and private lands. Together with Brian Schanilec, we represented sportsman's interests on that committee. Unfortunately he is unable to attend today and I have included his remarks with mine. We stand today in favor of **SB2036**.

Section 6 of House Bill No. 1021, passed during the 2019 Legislative Session, called for a legislative management to study access to public and private lands for hunting, trapping, fishing, and related issues, including trespass violations and penalties, and provide recommendations regarding a land access database with the capability of electronic posting. Under the leadership of Senator Erbele, this Interim Legislative committee made progress discussing access issues but mainly dealing with electronic posting. SB2036 is an excellent way to keep the dialog going, on a legislative level, to come up with solutions on hunter and angler access to both public and private lands.

If SB2144, dealing with electronic posting of lands passes during this legislative session, this committee would be ready to deal with any glitches or tweaks needed in the implementation of electronic posting.

Further discussion needs to be had dealing with the process that the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and Non-Profit Organizations go through to purchase land that is made available to hunters and anglers. In addition, this committee needs to look for solutions for access to landlocked public land tracts such as US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, ND Department of Trust Lands and even ND Wildlife Management Areas that are landlocked with no hunter access.

Ice fishing has become a very popular winter activity and lake access is another issue that needs further study. North Dakota is an ice fishing destination with some lakes lacking proper access to accommodate that fishing pressure. This bill received unanimous support from the Interim Legislative Committee and with its passage it will continue the dialog started between sportsmen and women, landowners, and the legislature.

We urge a Do Pass vote on SB2036