



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Testimony of John Bradley North Dakota Wildlife Federation House Bill 1120 Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee March 4, 2021

Chairman Kreun, members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). I am here today representing our 1,500 members and 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's club across North Dakota.

It's tough to come out against a bill that benefits veterans. I appreciate the intent of legislation and the work that the sponsor has done to make this bill better. We still have concerns with the number of licenses set aside, as well as when the hunt takes place.

NDWF believes in an equitable opportunity for residents in the deer lottery system. Passage of HB 1120 would set a precedent for other special groups to come in and demand special treatment, which would defeat the point of deer lottery system.

Lastly, there are non-profits, local rod & gun clubs out there that are doing the important work of getting veterans into the field. There was support for a bill in 2011 to provide tags to the Injured Military Wildlife Project of North Dakota. They receive 10 tags from Game & Fish - 4 any species tag, and 6 whitetail tags. This bill would expand what the Legislature has already done and weaken the deer lottery system for the public hunter. NDWF urges a do not pass on HB 1120.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that the committee might have.