



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Testimony of John Bradley North Dakota Wildlife Federation House Bill 1218 Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee March 12, 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.

NDWF is opposed to HB 1215 in its current form. HB1215 which would direct portions of the Outdoor Heritage Fund to the Bank of North Dakota to provide for a loan program. While we believe that the intentions of HB1215 are certainly sound, we do not believe that a loan program would be an effective mechanism to enhance conservation practices in the state. We would like to see it remain a grant fund with the OHF board deciding on projects based on the four directives:

- **Directive A** - Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;
- **Directive B** - Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems, and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;
- **Directive C** - Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

● **Directive D** - Conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

There have been many productive outcomes associated with the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Great projects spanning conservation on working farms and ranches, projects occurring in our communities to support a variety of recreational activities like hunting and fishing.

I believe that the Federation and the bill sponsor are both eager to ensure the sustained success of the Fund. While we don't believe HB1215, in its current form, is the vehicle to an improved Outdoor Heritage Fund, we do believe we are at an opportune moment to check progress on the Fund and evaluate necessary legislative changes to meet current or future needs.

To that end, we support the bill being amended into an Interim Study Resolution and be passed by the Committee to reconvene the many stakeholder groups to ensure a bright future for the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

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