

Dear Energy and Natural Resource Committee,

This letter is my way of expressing the reasons why I support bill 1151

I am a 16 year old hunter who has experienced the effects of baiting and no baiting. In my first couple years of bow hunting over bait, I would see some kind of wildlife on each sit and would come into range for a better chance of a closer ethical shot. During the change where there was no baiting allowed, I would go multiple sits without seeing anything and if I did see deer often times they wouldn't be within 50 yards. As a youth hunter it would be very easy to walk away from hunting. When I do go out for a sit I have to schedule around sports and other activities. When we had baiting, I could go out and would see wildlife activity within bow range and I could go out when my schedule allowed me. With no baiting, hunting requires a longer period of time to hopefully get lucky and have deer comes within range. For a youth hunter it can be hard to justify going out and sitting for hours knowing that there is a good chance that you won't have anything come close to you. No baiting does not help youth feel more involved in the outdoors and not many youth hunters have the chance to get close to wildlife and feel like they are connected to it. When I shot my first doe when I was 11, she was 20 yards on a bait pile and I dropped her. I instantly fell in love with hunting. Now I have seen how the effects of no baiting on new hunters through my siblings who are younger than me. They don't get any close shots and do not bow hunt because of that. When they hunt with a rifle they take far shots and often times miss. To me every missed shot gives you more of a reason to give up. When you are not an experienced marksman with longer shots, this can be very challenging and at this point hunting seems like more of a game rather than being close and seeing the animals every movement and then harvesting them. I have friends my own age who have completely quit hunting because of how challenging it now is with no baiting. I support this bill because if you don't get youth involved with hunting people will miss out on a great outdoor experience that teaches you a lot about life.

Sincerely,

Luke Jorde

Towner, ND

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