

I am writing this email in the hopes that it will help in providing enough information for you all as a Conference Committee to recommend a **DO NOT PASS** of HB 1414 in its entirety. It has no place being passed, especially given the current status of one of our greatest natural resource given we are in the midst of one of the most crippling winters since 1996-97. Our wildlife (especially pheasants, as we all know this bill was intended to target this species for non-residents) has struggled and perished during the last few months and will continue to do so, especially if we have a wet spring. To put an additional strain on them at this time, could make their recovery even that much more difficult, if not pushing them further into peril.

As one of the smallest states per capita in the U.S., we still have one of the greatest natural resources to offer the other 49 states: wildlife. This wildlife was, is and always will be managed by the good people of North Dakota and their voices should be heard louder than all others. This wildlife has provided a great economic value to our state and should be regarded and treated as such. It is during times like these when money needs to be spent on conservation efforts for them, so in another 10 years or so, they are that much more prepared for a debilitating winter like the one we are going through. We should not be giving this resource away to others, especially those whom do not contribute fiscally to our great state as year round tax paying citizens, at a price that is deemed acceptable by a few ill-informed individuals. Our residents are the ones who are here day in and day out, see the crippling effects on the wildlife and what happens when people keep taking and give nothing back.

I want to make it very clear that I am not completely against having non-residents come more often (as this bill would allow). I hunt with them, I am friends with them and appreciate them coming to enjoy our greatest natural resource. I realize that they do contribute to our economy during hunting season, but studies show that it is in no way even close to what is contributed by the tax-paying citizens of this state. When the hunting resource is used up, the non-residents will go away and all that will remain is the residents who were slighted if this bill is passed.

I do not in any way, shape or form believe that this should be a resource that is given away for more time, with less amounts of money. I am not a mathematician, nor do I belong to a budget committee, but I do know that allowing individuals to be charged as residents, when they are non-residents, makes no fiscal sense whatsoever.

I know that these few paragraphs have been written to you many times in the same way, by the same type of people like me who oppose this bill, but everyone needs to understand the implications of this type of legislation. If the individuals want resident prices for licenses, then they can seek to become a member of our great state. With 10s of thousands of job openings in North Dakota, one cannot argue that there are not viable opportunities. If they moved away, that is their choice and should not enjoy resident license rates. When something so valuable is given away so cheaply, it is bad for the North Dakota wildlife, our hunting heritage, the people of this great state and the economy that it is supposed to help. .

Please for the sake of our great state, **do not recommend** the passage of this bill. I appreciate your time and pray you do the right thing. I hope to hear from all of you on your stance on this bill.