

My name is Dennis Bense and I am a resident of Bismarck. I am in support of HB1538.

As a retired store leader of a large sporting goods retailer, a tournament angler and a person very involved in youth fishing, this bill affects my interests in many areas.

As a former retailer, I saw first hand the money that came into our city when one of these large tournaments was held. I know the data is out there, but millions of dollars are being spent in other states because of the 10% fee being attached to the permits. And they will not come back without a change to the policy. Small cities like Devils Lake and Garrison are missing out on significant revenue.

As a tournament angler, I am already buying a fishing license, why should 10% of my entry fee have to go to the Game and Fish. Do big buck contests or pheasant tail contests pay 10% off their entries to the Game and Fish. Also, under the current policy, things like tournament calcuttas are required to pay the 10% fee. Side pots are required to pay the 10% fee. I traveled as a Co Angler in the NWT for one year. Now to fish as a co Angler, you have to travel out of state, thus reducing the opportunities for our residents.

Lastly, I think requiring to have non profits and high school tournaments pay a \$10,000 fee to host a tournament is wrong. We need to recruit and encourage kids to get involved in the outdoors. High School angling is a very popular sport across the country. We can not discourage it in North Dakota.

Please pass this bill, or a form of this bill, to erase the 40 year old outdated policy.

Thank you

Dennis Bense