Greetings Legislators,

I respectfully request that you vote against HB 1151. I believe support for the bill is partially based on a conclusion that the North Dakota Game and Fish Department biologists responsible for minimizing the impact of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) are wrong. The proponents of HB 1151 have not proven that they are right, but have only demonstrated that they are unwilling to take a somewhat cautious, conservative approach to reducing the disease. The somewhat cautious approach of the ND Game & Fish Department does not infringe on their rights to hunt deer; it merely restricts one of the many tools that hunters employ to make deer hunting very easy.

HB 1151 poses a danger to an important wildlife resource in North Dakota. If or when CWD gets worse in North Dakota with HB 1151 enacted, it is unlikely that an emergency session of the legislature would be called to correct the mistake. If that does happen, it will be because it is too late.

I believe the biggest reason for some hunters supporting HB 1151 is selfishness; they want the easiest possible way to kill a deer. Current rules or laws already allow sufficient accommodations for persons with disabilities. With all the tools that deer hunters are allowed to use nowadays, (binoculars, spotting scopes, distance-compensating rifle scopes, noise suppressors, scent blocker, scent attractants, audible calls, bipods, precision bow sights, arrow releases, tree stands, tower blinds, ground blinds, etc.), it is absurd to claim that deer hunters would be seriously hampered by not being allowed to use bait.

In the case of CWD, it is clearly wisest to vote against HB 1151, and let the conscientious North Dakota Game and Fish Department professionals do their job. The demand for deer tags has exceeded the supply for many years, and there is no reason to expect that trend to improve. Please do not make an undesirable situation worse by weakening disease suppression efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark A. Anderson
3121 Barracuda DR
Bismarck, ND 58503