



**Attn:** Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
**Re:** House Bill 1151 – Deer Baiting  
**Date:** March 15, 2023  
**Position:** Oppose

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Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources,

I write to you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation in opposition of House Bill 1151, a bill that would strip the North Dakota Game and Fish Department of its ability to promulgate hunting rules. Specifically, the bill would bar the department from adopting any policy that prohibits the baiting of deer for hunting. In North Dakota, the Game and Fish Department (GFD) is the authority best-equipped to make science-based wildlife management decisions and should accordingly retain the ability to promulgate rules pertaining to hunting and wildlife generally. To ensure that the GFD may continue to manage North Dakota's wildlife resource through science-based principles, I respectfully urge the honorable members of this committee to oppose HB 1151.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

Wildlife management decisions in North Dakota should be science-based, and the Game and Fish Department is unequivocally the best-equipped entity in the state to make those decisions. The GFD is comprised of capable wildlife biologists that understand the ever-evolving threats to wildlife species and can use this extensive knowledge to make timely adjustments through administrative action. It is imperative that the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the agency specifically established by this legislature to protect the storied fish and wildlife resources of North Dakota, does not have their decision-making authority legislated away. I respectfully urge the honorable members of this committee to oppose the passage of House Bill 1151, thereby retaining the Game and Fish Department's authority to practice sound science-based wildlife management. I thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this bill and welcome any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

**Robert Matthews**

Senior Coordinator, Upper Midwestern States

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

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