

Testimony in Support of HB 1151

I, like many other sportsmen in North Dakota, are very passionate about hunting. Spending most of my spare time educating myself by observing deer or reading about them. Deer health is always a top priority to ensure a bright future for our sport.

Deer constantly like to be congregated and are very social animals. Making direct contact by communicating through licking branches and grooming one another. Besides that most are eating together at the same destination food source. All this exposure naturally takes place year after year. Research shows that CWD prions in soil and on plants last for at least two years but likely longer. Deer are creatures of habit and will often use the same trails and eat on the same food sources each year. How does a deer briefly stopping at a bait have such a detrimental effect?

The data I have read shows in the past twenty years there have been 40,000 harvested deer and tested for CWD. In that time frame there have been 70 positive cases. Out of these 70, 69 were harvested deer and only one of them was a deer that was found dead. That is less than one percent of the tested deer testing positive for CWD. The numbers in all the current and past research do not add up to needing restrictions on baiting.

Currently you can bait if you want to get pictures but not if you have a weapon in your hand. Theories and speculation are taking away rights of hunters. Baiting should be a choice that is optional to all hunters. To limit educated, health conscious hunters who are trying to add nutrition to a deer's daily diet does not make sense to me.

Allowing baiting could get more elderly and disabled people involved in the sport. It also is appealing to out of state hunters in turn will increase hunting license sales. It is a great way to get young hunters outdoors and let them enjoy watching game in a close proximity. Baiting is a tool often used to help position deer for a more ethical shot placement. There are more pros than cons when it comes to baiting.

There is not enough factual data to justify not allowing baiting. I would appreciate it if you could reflect on what I have said and give back to sportsmen who are trying to enjoy their sport. Please vote yes on HB 1151.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jordan Dahle