

## **SB2137**

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Russell Senske. I am natural resources professional and educated in restoration ecology. I will be the first to admit Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a complex disease. I think you all can agree with that by listening to the testimony for this bill SB2137 and last session the testimony for HB1151, that CWD is not a straight forward disease and fires up the sportsman of this state. However, what we do know is that this disease is real, it's 100% fatal, has no cure and there is no foreseeable solution to eradication. So why would anyone who cares about healthy deer herds want to limit the tools of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) who is mandated to manage the deer herds of this state? Limiting the NDGFs ability to adaptively manage deer is shortsighted and hypocritical. Ask yourself, why would a state agency lie about the disease and alienate the residents who help fund the NDGF? I think you can agree that a full set of tools is needed to effectively manage a fatal disease as complex as this. So why limit these wildlife professionals who have dedicated their careers to the residents and wildlife of this state? If this method of limiting a Department's ability to operate was applied to any other agency I think it was raise a lot of eyebrows and concerns. Leave the auditing to the auditors, law enforcement to the police and wildlife management to the wildlife biologists.

What is going on here is ballot box biology, and this a dangerous precedent to set. Seeing the names of those are support this bill, have openly opposed unsuccessful attempt at ballot box biology when trying stop the harvest of Bobcat and Mountain lions in Colorado and the successful effort to legislatively require Colorado to re introduce gray wolves. This concept works both ways, so be careful.

Russell Senske