

Chair Porter and Members of the Committee;

SB 2216 establishes a **North Dakota waterfowl habitat stamp and improvement fund** to support habitat conservation for hunting and youth hunting programs. The bill also improves **data collection** by providing a more accurate count of resident waterfowl hunters, allowing the Game and Fish Department to make more informed management decisions.

This idea originated from working with a grassroots group of duck hunters who wanted more accurate data on resident waterfowl hunting while also supporting the sport.

Recent data from the **2024 spring breeding duck survey** indicates that some waterfowl species have declined nearly **50% since peak years (1994-2016)**, with habitat loss being a contributing factor. SB 2216 also provides additional support for **youth hunting programs**, aligning with the increasing interest in high school trap shooting and hunting.

The **\$5 stamp** is projected to generate **\$400,000 annually**, with all revenue directed toward habitat improvements and hunting programs. I encourage a **yes vote** to enhance conservation efforts, improve data accuracy, and support North Dakota's hunting programs.

Thanks for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sean

Sean Cleary

State Senator -- District 35

Bismark, ND