

I am Kent Reiersen of Williston, ND. I am a member of numerous Habitat organizations, and I am active hunter. I am an archery enthusiast and hunt with a rifle and bird hunt. I oppose Senate Bill 2137 of the 69th legislative assembly. I believe we should leave wildlife management up to professionals and not use ballot box management. NDGF allows public input and has the best interests of the state's wildlife as part of its mission. People can express opinions and desires to the department to influence decisions and policy. But the ultimate decisions should be science based. While I don't agree with all decisions of NDGF they are in the best position to ultimately make scientifically based management decisions.

Those who presented this bill are not taking the best interests of our publicly owned wildlife into consideration. In the last legislative session baiting was an issue and the result was further restricting the NDGF from doing its job as it relates to CWD management. In the end it allowed baiting restrictions where there was documented CWD. This bill would strip authority from the North Dakota Game and Fish to implement their CWD Management Plan by prohibiting the Game and Fish from banning baiting practices where such restrictions are most needed.

One must ask why would a person interested in the best interests of long term deer management desire such a bill. The obvious answer is: they wouldn't. They only want such a policy so it is easier for them to kill a deer without regard to the long term impact of CWD, an infectious and always fatal disease. Some argue the science is not absolute on the ability of such baiting restrictions to help impede the spread of CWD. But if there is doubt why would we not err on the side of protecting the resource not risk it further.

Please vote no on this unneeded legislation that puts our public resources at risk.

Thank You.