

Good Morning Chair Patten & Committee Members

For the record I am Jeremy Doan. I have owned and operated an outfitting business in ND for the past 25 years. I am here to speak in favor of the .04001 Amendments to House Bill 1470.

Being a guide can be one of the most stressful jobs, but also very rewarding. It requires working every day continually for 2 months or more, it also tests you physically and emotionally with mother nature and clients, while getting very little sleep. People that become guides must have a passion for the outdoors, wildlife, and the ability to be around different personalities of guests. These guides must have a strong background in hunting, know the state and federal regulations, and can be transparent to changes that come daily.

Finding quality guides in ND has become very tough over the past decade. We market extensively to search for quality candidates. Many of these candidates either have full-time positions with a company they work for or have other obligations that do not allow them to be gone for at least 2 months at a time.

In the past we have had guides from ND, as well as many other states.

We have learned that the ones traveling to be here, are the ones committed to be here. We have had to turn away some of the most experienced and committed people applying that would represent ND in the best way, because of the 3 year hunting requirement in ND.

With no options for guides due to this law, we have to beg someone that has had a ND hunting license for 3 years to work. I am unaware of any other state that has this same requirement for guides.

Aren't pheasants and waterfowl in SD very similar to the ones we have here? So isn't it still the same experience hunting them across state lines?

Most of these guides that get turned away due to this regulation, will go to Canada, or any other state with minimal effort to be a licensed guide. Please vote yes on passing this amendment.

Moving onto Section 4 language on the testing restriction language.

Last year we lost one guide due to his leg getting amputated the week before season started with no warning.

We had to run short for the entire season due to not being allowed to take the test, even though I had 2 very qualified people ready to step in and become guides.

This was not good for our business, staff morale, or a good reflection of North Dakota.

If someone wanted to work for the game and fish department and were required to take a test, would they only allow them to take a test twice a year or turn them away if they needed them right now?

Is it fair in this business if someone is incapable of working right before the doors open, and we aren't allowed to fill this position due to a simple regulation on not offering them to take this guide test?

This regulation is old and needs to be changed. Please approve these changes. Thank you, any questions?