



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS  
NORTH DAKOTA**

**TESTIMONY OF BROCK WAHL  
NORTH DAKOTA BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS  
SENATE BILL 2155  
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE  
January 23, 2025**

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee

The North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers asks for a “Do Pass” recommendation on SB 2155.

Currently, North Dakota Century Code dictates that the first 50 tags in each unit are required to go to gratis tags, with remaining tags allocated as 50/50 split. In some units, this has resulted in 95% of the “any pronghorn” tags being allocated as gratis tags. Several other units can see 60-70% or more of those same tags go to gratis.

This is purely a function of the number of tags available. If pronghorn numbers were significantly higher, then this entire conversation would be irrelevant. However, pronghorn numbers are down significantly across the entire country due to many factors. With that being said, it is our stance that the current tag allocation system is not representative of a fair distribution of tags for North Dakota’s pronghorn resource.

Senate Bill 2155 seeks to balance the scales of Pronghorn tag allocation by codifying a straight 50/50 split for the tag type “any pronghorn”. In 2024, this bill would’ve meant that 172 “any pronghorn” tags went into the hands of the resident North Dakotans who have waited, in most cases, over a decade for that hunting opportunity. North Dakota resident hunters, who all own an equal share of North Dakota’s wildlife, deserve a fair distribution of tags on a limited public resource.

After all, it is written in North Dakota Century code Section 20.1-03-03,  
*“The ownership of and title to all wildlife within this state is in the state for the purpose of regulating the enjoyment, use, possession, disposition, and conservation thereof...” and “The state has a property interest in all protected wildlife.”*

We support the amendments and urge a “Do Pass” to the committee.

Brock Wahl  
Chairman  
Board of Directors  
North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers



---

[WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/NORTH\\_DAKOTA\\_BHA](http://WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/NORTH_DAKOTA_BHA)  
[NORTHDAKOTA@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG](mailto:NORTHDAKOTA@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG)



Population change from 2021-2023

