

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Testimony on SB 2216 (IN OPPOSITION)

Kurt Swenson, Beulah, ND District 33

Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Kurt Swenson from Beulah. I am an avid outdoorsman, enjoying the pursuit of game that North Dakota offers us on our own property and that of neighbors and friends.

I am highly supportive of waterfowl habitat improvements and youth hunting programs. We invest significant time and money improving habitat on our property and by supporting our local Pheasants Forever Chapter. We host youth hunting events every year on our property and support various Learn to Shoot and Learn to Hunt events in our local community.

I am concerned with SB 2216 as it is currently written for two reasons:

- The stamp and associated fee **do not apply to non-resident** small game or waterfowl hunters. Why should they enjoy the benefit of the waterfowl habitat improvements generated by this funding source without having to contribute?
- With our proud history of NDGF being a primarily user-based funding model, why should this generation of funds fall solely on the backs of small game hunters? It would be best if we applied to all license types (OR NOT AT ALL)
 - o Many small game hunters DO NOT pursue waterfowl. While waterfowl habitat improvements are generally beneficial to small game and big game in addition to waterfowl, individuals that purchase Combination, Big Game and Spring Light Goose Conservation Season licenses may not be contributing all for this benefit.
 - o Youth hunting programs lead to all types of hunters, all types of hunting licenses should contribute towards this noble effort.

I recommend you consider amending this bill in one of two ways:

- Limit the imposition of this stamp and fee strictly for waterfowl hunters (resident and non-residents), OR
- Impose this as a license pre-requisite, similar to the current Fishing, Hunting, Furbearer Certificate and General Game and Habitat License so that everyone contributes.

If the bill remains as written, I respectfully ask you to vote DO PASS vote on HB 1574.