

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and Committee Members for taking the time to read my testimony, My name is Matt Aberle.

I am asking for a Do Pass vote on SB 2216. I am a board member of the North Dakota Waterfowl and Agricultural Association but this testimony is from me as a North Dakota Outdoorsman and avid waterfowl hunter. I believe this bill as amended will provide our Game & Fish Dept. with valuable information and funding to help them manage our waterfowl resources in the following ways: 1. Currently the G&F dept. does not have a mechanism to accurately count the number of resident waterfowl hunters. They do know that there were almost 30,000 non resident waterfowl hunters this year. The bill will give the G&F an accurate number of resident waterfowl hunters and provide them with a better control group to conduct waterfowl hunting surveys. 2. The funds generated from this stamp will help the G&F slow the rapid decline of our waterfowl habitat. 3. The fund will also provide funding for youth hunting programs.

We have an opportunity to slow the decline in our hunting numbers by targeting the hundreds of kids involved in JR & Sr High School trap, skeet and sporting clays. Any way we can get these kids out hunting would be a huge positive. Again I urge you to vote DO PASS on SB 2216.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Matt Aberle