

2009 HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1216

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1216

House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 1-23-09

Recorder Job Number: 7669

Committee Clerk Signature	<i>Nancy L. Gerhardt</i>
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Minutes:

Chairman Porter – Rep. Jim Krezman

Rep. Krezman - HB 1216 proposes 3 periods of 5 consecutive days to hunt small game. This only expands hunting days by 1, but allows them the opportunity to return 1 additional time to our state. By extending non-resident hunting to 3 periods it would be a good economic development for our community. It would allow hunters to travel back into our state 1 additional time purchasing fuel, possibly rooms and food. I ask for your favorable consideration. **See Attachment # 1** Questions

Chairman Porter – Questions? Any further testimony for HB 1216? Rep. DeKray

Rep. DeKray – I don't have anything to add so I will just sign in support.

Chairman Porter – Any further testimony to 1216? Any opposition to 1216?

Foster Ray Hagar – Cass Co Wildlife Club - **See Attachment #2.**

Rep. Nottestad – What has been said to you regarding a real problem with the youth having problems with the non-resident hunters on the week-ends?

Mr. Hagar – This bill allows more weekends to hunt and therefore our club feels if non-residents can hunt more weekends they will be out in the field competing with the youth.

Rep. Nottestad – You would see more resident hunters in the field on weekend al well wouldn't you?

Mr. Hagar – Yes, you see more hunters on the weekend because people have the weekends off.

Chairman Porter – Any more testimony in opposition to 1216? We will close the hearing on HB 1216.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1216

House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 1-23-09

Recorder Job Number: 7671

Committee Clerk Signature

Nancy S. Gerhardt

Minutes:

Chairman Porter – Using the department statistic – 49,300 people were not affected by that change. From Montana, South Dakota & Minnesota from these border states where they were used to have a season long tag, and apparently that is about 700 people. It is a fairly small number of people effected that have to buy multiple licenses. We knew that when we made the change, we adjusted that change to coincide with the water fowl situation because the original bill was 10 day periods. Now it is 14. Discussion? Any motions?

Rep. Hofstad – I move a Do Pass on HB 1216.

Chairman Porter – Rep. Hofstad moved a Do Pass on 1216. Is there a 2nd? 2nd by Rep.

DeKray

Yes 6 No 5 Absent 2 Carrier Rep. Hofstad

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1216

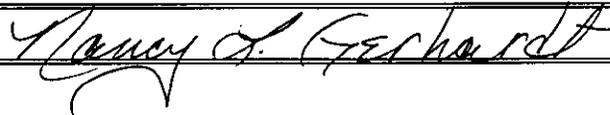
House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 1-29-09

Recorder Job Number: 8168

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Porter – I called this bill back to the committee. We needed to put a fiscal note on this. We need a motion to reconsider our actions. I have a motion from Rep. Keiser and 2nd by Rep. DeKray. All in favor? Unanimous vote Yes – Opposed None – motion carried. This bill was a companion bill to 1246. Because of the change of the licensing requirements and the reduction in the number of nonresident's licenses that will be sold the game & fish dept. has concluded there is a \$70,000 fiscal effect on this bill. Reduced revenues. \$35,000 per year over the next biennium on this bill. Committee discussion. The total number of multiple licenses sold was 700, but that number is not the number they used in the determination of the fiscal note.

Rep. Hofstad – Would the assumption be that because of that they might get more licenses?

Chairman Porter – Probably not. The fiscal impact isn't on the first time buying the license, it's on the repeat purchasing of a license.

Rep. Hofstad – Wouldn't you think this would impact people that now would buy a first time license because now the parameters have been expanded?

Chairman Porter – Personally I would have a tough time drawing that conclusion. Rep. Keiser

Rep. Keiser – In the old law you could buy a license for 14 days, or 2 periods of 7 consecutive days which requires you to buy 2 licenses. This way you could buy a license for 14 consecutive days or 1 license for 1 license for 3 periods of 5 days. I don't see much difference.

Chairman Porter – Currently you have 14 days in a row or you have 2 – 7 day periods that you can split. If you do it under 3 periods of 5 days each you will have 1 additional period of hunting with 1 license. Where now they require you to buy that 2nd license.

Rep. Keiser – You are getting an extra weekend, but the fiscal note shouldn't change.

Chairman Porter – You are getting an extra weekend, but why the fiscal note changes is because you use to have to buy another license for that extra weekend, where with this you don't. The number of license sales go down.

Rep. Myxter – Is a motion in order?

Chairman Porter – Sure

Rep. Myxter – I move a Do Not Pass

Chairman Porter – I have a motion for a Do Not Pass – do I hear a 2nd? 2nd from Rep.

Hanson. Discussion? Take the roll on a Do Not Pass on HB 1216.

Yes 6 No 6 Absent 1 Motion Fails Vote #1

Chairman Porter – Someone needs to move a Do Pass, that can fail. We will hold it over until everyone is here.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1216

House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 1-29-09

Recorder Job Number: 8171

Committee Clerk Signature

Nancy L. Gerhardt

Minutes:

Chairman Porter – Rep. Kelsh you was gone while we took this bill up. We had a tie on a Do Not Pass motion, the bill came back to the committee because of the fiscal note the game & fish put on it which is a \$70,000 decrease in revenues. The bill is in front of us again.

Rep. Myxter – I move a Do Not Pass

Chairman Porter – I have a motion for a Do Not Pass is there a 2nd on it?

Rep. Keiser – I think you have to go with the Do Pass since there was someone missing and it failed.

Chairman Porter – If the motion fails and we are back at point zero again.

Rep. DeKray – Ok I move a Do Pass

Rep. Keiser – 2nd

Chairman Porter – We have a motion for a Do Pass by Rep. DeKray and a 2nd by Rep. Keiser.

The clerk will call the roll.

Yes 6 No 7 Absent 0 Motion Failed

Rep. Myxter – I move for a Do Not Pass

Rep. Hanson – 2nd

Chairman Porter – I have a motion from Rep. Myxter for a Do Not Pass with a 2nd from Rep. Hanson . The clerk will call the roll.

Yes 7 No 6 Absent 0 Carrier Rep. Myxter

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
03/03/2009

Amendment to: HB 1216

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				(\$70,000)		(\$70,000)
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

Nonresidents are allowed two 7 day periods for their small game hunting license. This bill allows them three 5 day periods. They can purchase additional licenses for \$85. This version allows three 5 day periods for waterfowl licenses. Nonresidents can purchase one waterfowl license per year.

B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Allowing three 5 day periods probably will reduce the number of second licenses that will be purchased. Currently about 750-800 multiple licenses are purchased per year. If sales of these is reduced by 50%, the revenue reduction would be about \$70,000 per biennium. It is difficult to estimate what the reduction will be.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

Since nonresidents can purchase only one waterfowl license per year, the change to allow three 5 day periods will not significantly impact license sales.

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Name:	Paul Schadewald	Agency:	ND Game and Fish Department
Phone Number:	328-6328	Date Prepared:	03/03/2009

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/26/2009

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1216

1A. State fiscal effect: *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				(\$70,000)		(\$70,000)
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary: *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

Currently nonresidents are allowed two 7 day periods for their small game hunting license. This bill allows them to have three 5 day periods. They can purchase additional licenses for \$85.

B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Allowing three 5 day periods probably will reduce the number of second licenses that will be purchased. Currently about 750-800 multiple licenses are purchased per year. If sales of these is reduced by 50%, the revenue reduction would be about \$70,000 per biennium. It is difficult to estimate what the reduction will be.

3. State fiscal effect detail: *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. Revenues: *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

B. Expenditures: *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

C. Appropriations: *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Name:	Paul T. Schadewald	Agency:	ND Game and Fish Department
Phone Number:	701-328-6328	Date Prepared:	01/27/2009

Date: 1-23-09
Roll Call Vote #: 1216

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1216

House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass As Amended

Motion Made By Hofstad Seconded By DeKrey

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Porter		✓	Rep Hanson		✓
Vice Chairman Damschen		✓	Rep Hunsakor	✓	
Rep Clark	✓		Rep Kelsh		✓
Rep DeKrey	✓		Rep Myxter		✓
Rep Droydal	✓		Rep Pinkerton		
Rep Hofstad	✓				
Rep Keiser					
Rep Nottestad	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 5

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Hofstad

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1216: Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(6 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1216 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

Date: 1-29-2009
Roll Call Vote #: 4

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1216

House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass As Amended

Motion Made By DeKrey Seconded By KEISER

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Porter		✓	Rep Hanson		✓
Vice Chairman Damschen		✓	Rep Hunsakor		✓
Rep Clark		✓	Rep Kelsh		✓
Rep DeKrey	✓		Rep Myxter		✓
Rep Drovdal	✓		Rep Pinkerton	✓	
Rep Hofstad	✓				
Rep Keiser	✓				
Rep Nottestad	✓				

Total (Yes) 20 No 7

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:
FAILS

Date: 1-29-2009
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1216

House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass As Amended

Motion Made By Myxter Seconded By HANSON

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Porter	✓		Rep Hanson	✓	
Vice Chairman Damschen	✓		Rep Hunskor	✓	
Rep Clark	✓		Rep Kelsh	✓	
Rep DeKrey		✓	Rep Myxter	✓	
Rep Drovdal		✓	Rep Pinkerton		✓
Rep Hofstad		✓			
Rep Keiser		✓			
Rep Nottestad		✓			

Total (Yes) 7 No 6

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Myxter

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 29, 2009 4:45 p.m.

Module No: HR-18-1230
Carrier: Myxter
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1216: Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (7 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1216 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2009 SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1216

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1216

Senate Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 26, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 9772

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Senator Lyson opens the hearing on HB 1216, relating to nonresident small game hunting licenses.

Representative James Kerzman introduces the bill (see attached testimony #1).

Senator Erbele we passed a bill that would allow non residents to get a season long license for an additional \$80 with that money going to the PLOTS, one bill is going to have to fail because they both can't exist.

Representative Kerzman I applaud the senate for doing it; I have tried to do it before. I don't know if we can get that bill through the house. As far as this bill is concerned I would like to see it stay alive as long as it could because it is very important to our areas.

Senator Lyson how would you feel if an amendment was added to the bill that included water fowl?

Representative Kerzman I guess I would have to give it a little thought. I don't know if we want to mix water fowl with it. The water fowl is not really important in our part of the state as it is in other parts. Water fowl is federal and I wonder if we will have problems with it.

Senator Lyson It is not just the upland game that non residents come to North Dakota to hunt.

Representative Rod Froelich Over the years we have put a lot of restrictions on. If you think about it there isn't much difference between three five day periods and two seven day periods. I am in full support of this bill.

Clarence Bina, United Sportsmens of North Dakota, we support this bill as it is written.

Roger Kaseman, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, we are strongly opposed to this bill. (See attached testimony #1).

Foster Ray Hager, Cass County Wildlife Club, we oppose this bill. (See attached testimony #3).

Paul Schadwald, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, We would like to point out one inconsistency with the wording of this bill. It says that there is a period of 14 days or any 3 periods of 5 days. People can put those 5 day periods one after another and come up with a 15 day period. I don't think we need the reference of the 14 day period in there. I have an amendment drafted where it crosses out the wording in line 8, for you to look over (see attachment #4). 700 to 750 people normally buy additional licenses. There are a very small number of people who buy three or more licenses.

Senator Freborg We have a hand out here that says more than 53% of small game licenses in 2007 were issued to nonresident hunters. Is that correct?

Paul Schadwald that sounds about right. We have a lot of nonresident small game hunters.

Senator Freborg is it possible that we would get more people to buy three 5 day licenses than we do that buy the two 7 day licenses?

Paul Schadwald it is possible.

Senator Hogue I was wondering if you could clarify the amount of money the Game and Fish Department has in their account?

Paul Schadwald it varies from day to day. Right now we have about \$29,000,000 in our fund not including surplus. A lot of it is dedicated to be spent this biennium. We are required by legislature to keep \$15,000,000 in our fund.

Senator Lyson the reason I had these amendments drawn up is because I feel we have as many non residents coming here to hunt water fowl as we do small game. I think it would be no more than fair if we are doing this for economic development. We should do this for the whole state and not just part of it.

Senator Triplett asked Paul to respond to the concern for the hunting pressure this would put on the game along with harsh winter.

Paul Scahdwald We have about 700-800 people who are buying multiple licenses. This bill will allow them to come back for another trip so the question is how many people will make that third trip back. This will add some hunting pressure, but it is hard to tell how many people will buy the multiple licenses.

Senator Lyson on the amendment I handed you there shouldn't be a fiscal note because they would have to buy a water fowl license any ways.

Paul Schadwald that is correct. Water fowl licenses are a different issue. By law hunters can only buy one water fowl license a year. With small game licenses they can buy as many as they want in a year.

Senator Erbele can you limit the license sales or is there a cap that you can adjust if you see that there is pressure on the wild life?

Paul Schadwald no there isn't.

Senator Lyson Closed the hearing on SB 1216.

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

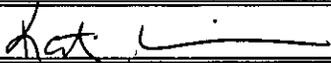
Bill/Resolution No. 1216

Senate Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 26, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 9773

Committee Clerk Signature 

Minutes:

Senator Lyson Opens the discussion on HB 1216.

Senator Triplett in regards to Paul's amendment it certainly makes sense to me to avoid inconsistencies. I move the amendment proposed by the Game and Fish Department.

Senator Erbele seconds the motion.

Senator Hogue I am wondering if it will be useful for the committee to find out how we feel about the bill before we start tacking on amendments. The primary sponsor would like the bill to not go back to the house if at all possible.

Senator Lyson We need to clean it up so we are consistent throughout the bill.

The committee discussed what could be discussed in a conference committee.

A voice vote was taken and the amendment was adopted with a vote of 7 to 0.

Senator Lyson we still has another amendment before us. The reason I put this forth is if we are doing this for economic development we should be doing it for the whole state and not just part of it.

Senator Triplett asked if there were any other bills out there that this amendment would fit with.

Senator Lyson I went to legislative council and they said it would fit in this bill even though it is a different chapter, but I am not sure if there are any other bills out there that it would fit better with.

Senator Hogue I was wondering if the nonresident water fowl hunters would take more advantage of this more than the small game hunters because a majority of our nonresident hunters are from Minnesota and they are closer to our water fowl areas than they are to the small game areas.

Paul Schadwald We actually have more nonresident pheasant hunters than water fowl hunters. It also varies from year to year. In both situations approximately 50% of our hunters come from Minnesota whether it is for water fowl or pheasant hunting.

Senator Erbele I would support putting the water fowl amendment on the bill. We do have a growing population of resident geese, but by large they are the migratory birds. I know the people from Minnesota and Wisconsin would welcome the opportunity to go after those water fowl birds. They are also a bird that creates crop deprivations where as the upland birds are typically not a problem. I move to adopt the water fowl amendment.

Senator Schneider seconds the motion.

Senator Triplett to be consistent we should make the same correction as Mr. Schadwald's amendment because the language in your amendment repeats existing law.

Paul Schadwald this amendment reads a little different. It has a 14 day period and two 7 day periods would stay in place and then we would have an additional option of three 5 day periods. We could do it even though it would be a little more difficult to explain it to hunters.

The committee discusses the language of the amendment and the differences between the two amendments.

Senator Schneider I received a lot of emails from constituents and I would like to have a day to talk to my experts about this.

A voice vote was taken and the amendment was adopted.

Senator Lyson closed the discussion on the bill and will hold the bill for a few days.

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1216

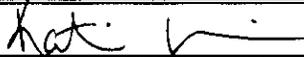
Senate Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 27, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 9832

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Senator Lyson Opens the discussion on HB 1216.

Senator Schneider my concern is with the hard winter that we are coming off of that this will put increased pressure on game populations and for that reason I plan to vote against it.

Senator Triplett moves a Do Pass as amended and re-referred to appropriations. The difference between 2 periods versus three periods seems to me that it won't make a big difference one way or the other. I was influenced by Mr. Schadwald's comment on the fiscal note where he said that it was correct on the \$70,000 give or take \$70,000. It didn't seem to me from the testimony that it will be a huge impact on the resource.

Senator Lyson the testimony from the main sponsor was that it would help the economic development in the small communities. The other amendment adding water fowl to the bill would help the economic development for the rest of the state as well.

Senator Triplett I think that if there was a conflict between serious pressure on wildlife resource versus economic development I think we would be required to prioritize maintaining the resource over economic development. I don't see this as an either or choice because the testimony to me seemed that it would be such a small impact on the resource.

Senator Schneider I have similar thoughts. I think that with 700 nonresidents buying another license I don't think the law as it is, is occurring hindrance to economic development in smaller communities.

The roll was taken and the bill received a Do Pass as amended on a vote of 6 to 1.

#5

90475.0101
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Lyson
February 25, 2009

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1216

Page 1, line 1, after "20.1-03-07" insert "and section 20.1-03-07.1"

Page 1, line 2, after "hunting" insert "and nonresident waterfowl hunting"

Page 1, after line 13, insert:

"SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 20.1-03-07.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

20.1-03-07.1. Nonresident waterfowl hunting license required. Except as provided in sections 20.1-02-05, 20.1-03-07.2, and 20.1-03-07.3, a nonresident may not hunt waterfowl unless that individual first obtains a nonresident waterfowl hunting license. However, a nonresident may hunt cranes after first obtaining a nonresident waterfowl hunting license or a nonresident small game hunting license. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the nonresident waterfowl hunting license entitles the nonresident to hunt waterfowl for any period of fourteen consecutive days ~~or~~, any two periods of seven consecutive days each, or any three periods of five consecutive days each. A license authorizing the fourteen-day hunting period allows hunting in a specified waterfowl hunting zone. A license authorizing two 7-day hunting periods or three 5-day hunting periods allows hunting in a specified zone during each period. Upon payment of the fee for a statewide nonresident waterfowl hunting license, a nonresident may hunt waterfowl in any zone. Forty dollars of the fee for a statewide nonresident waterfowl license must be used for the private land open to sportsmen program. The governor, in the governor's proclamation, shall specify various waterfowl hunting zones for which nonresident waterfowl hunting licenses will be available, and may specify the number of licenses which may be issued in each zone and the manner in which they are to be issued. A nonresident is entitled to purchase only one nonresident waterfowl hunting license per year. The fourteen-day ~~and~~, two 7-day, and three 5-day hunting period restrictions do not apply to nonresidents hunting in Richland and Sargent Counties during the early September Canada goose season."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 02.26.2009

Roll Call Vote #: #1 1216

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Senate Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number Game + Fish amendment

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Amendment

Motion Made By Sen. Triplett Seconded By Sen. Schneider

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Stanley W. Lyson, Chairman	/		Senator Jim Pomeroy	/	
Senator David Hogue, Vice Chairman	/		Senator Mac Schneider	/	
Senator Robert S. Erbele	/		Senator Constance Triplett	/	
Senator Layton W. Freborg	/				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Voice vote on amendment only.

Date: 02, 26, 2009

Roll Call Vote #: #3 12/16

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Senate _____ Natural Resources _____ Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Amendment

Motion Made By Sen. Erbele Seconded By Sen. Hogue

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Stanley W. Lyson, Chairman	/		Senator Jim Pomeroy	/	
Senator David Hogue, Vice Chairman	/		Senator Mac Schneider		/
Senator Robert S. Erbele	/		Senator Constance Triplett	/	
Senator Layton W. Freborg	/				

Total (Yes) 6 No 1

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Sen. Hogue

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1216: Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Lyson, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1216 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "20.1-03-07" insert "and section 20.1-03-07.1"

Page 1, line 2, after "hunting" insert "and nonresident waterfowl hunting"

Page 1, line 8, overstrike "period of fourteen consecutive days or any"

Page 1, after line 13, insert:

"SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 20.1-03-07.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

20.1-03-07.1. Nonresident waterfowl hunting license required. Except as provided in sections 20.1-02-05, 20.1-03-07.2, and 20.1-03-07.3, a nonresident may not hunt waterfowl unless that individual first obtains a nonresident waterfowl hunting license. However, a nonresident may hunt cranes after first obtaining a nonresident waterfowl hunting license or a nonresident small game hunting license. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the nonresident waterfowl hunting license entitles the nonresident to hunt waterfowl for any period of fourteen consecutive days ~~or~~ any two periods of seven consecutive days each, or any three periods of five consecutive days each. A license authorizing the fourteen-day hunting period allows hunting in a specified waterfowl hunting zone. A license authorizing two 7-day hunting periods or three 5-day hunting periods allows hunting in a specified zone during each period. Upon payment of the fee for a statewide nonresident waterfowl hunting license, a nonresident may hunt waterfowl in any zone. Forty dollars of the fee for a statewide nonresident waterfowl license must be used for the private land open to sportsmen program. The governor, in the governor's proclamation, shall specify various waterfowl hunting zones for which nonresident waterfowl hunting licenses will be available, and may specify the number of licenses which may be issued in each zone and the manner in which they are to be issued. A nonresident is entitled to purchase only one nonresident waterfowl hunting license per year. The fourteen-day ~~and~~ two 7-day, and three 5-day hunting period restrictions do not apply to nonresidents hunting in Richland and Sargent Counties during the early September Canada goose season."

Re-number accordingly

2009 HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

HB 1216

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1216

House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 4-21-09

Recorder Job Number: 12040

Committee Clerk Signature

Nancy L. Gerhardt

Minutes:

Chairman DeKrey: Call the Conference Committee to order on HB 1216.

Senator Lyson: The only thing the senate did was to add water fowl also to help with economic development for the center part of the state as well as just the SW.

Rep. Porter: As we looked at this particular language in this bill we were talking strictly about upland game, even to the point that the bill sponsor was talking about having 3 different weekends using his son as an example wanting to come home, one of them being over Christmas. On the house side water fowl was never ever part of the discussion on this particular bill as we looked at it. When you think about the normal water fowl season, starting in October, basically changing it to this wording you've now included nonresidents being able to hunt the entire water fowl season. I personally have received numerous emails and phone calls saying, "That's not a very good idea". There's a lot of concern from the public that opening that up has gone full circle from what the current restriction is of 2 – 7 day periods and then hunting in various zones. On top of that you have to remember there are zones they are assigned to. Zone 3 would be where all the pressure is now put onto as this comes out.

Senator Lyson: We didn't do this blind folded. We made some calls, we did some surveys, and one of the things we got from the game & fish is there is not a problem with pressure. We

● didn't think that was a problem. I'm not sure where Rep. Porter is getting his information because I contacted all the hunting groups and not a one of them have been opposed to me. I have not received 1 email or 1 call opposing this amendment.

Paul Schadewald: ND Game & Fish – The fiscal note comes from the small game licenses. Right now there are about 700 people a year that buy multiple licenses. Some will buy 2, 3, and 4 licenses. The estimate is that some of those people will not have to buy as many licenses because they will be able to hunt 3 week-ends with this new type of license. Under the current license they can get 2 – 7 day periods. It will help some people, some people it wouldn't. There would be fewer licenses sold on small game. Water fowl is not the same because people are limited to only 1 license per year. We don't have the same situation as with the small game license.

→ ● Rep. Porter: In our previous discussion you provided us with a chart that showed the number of nonresidents that were handled by the current statute. If I recall it was 92% of the nonresident upland game hunter's required only 1 license and you knew the number of days they hunted in the state. Do you have information on the water fowl? How many days they're hunting in the state?

Mr. Shadwald: I think we do on the water fowl. We'd have some estimates. I don't have that information with me. We have the information on how many people buy multiple licenses, but I don't have how many days they actually hunt. I can get that.

Senator Lyson: We can do what we want here. I can tell you, and I think the votes are here, if we reject these amendments, the bill is dead in the senate.

Rep. Hunskor: From Game & Fish perspective, the amendment with the water fowl, does the ● game & fish have feeling on that around the state as far as the resident hunters? How they are affected or feel about this?

Mr. Schadewald: We haven't taken a position on this bill. It's not a major resource issue. It's more a people management type issue and a space for people to hunt. That's been a heated debate over the years. We're able to implement, but in situation, leave it up to the legislature to decide the people issues. We don't see it as a biological issue.

Chairman DeKrey: Rep. Porter asked for some information, so Paul do you want to see to it Rep. Porter gets it and he will distribute it to the conference committee. We will adjourn for now and let everybody look at that information and we will talk among ourselves as to what the Senator said and we will come back next time to know where we want to go with the bill. I think it sounds to me like the senate's pretty firm on where they want to be. I guess it's the three of us to decide what we're going to do. We will adjourn for now and reschedule.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1216

House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 4-27-09 9:00 AM

Recorder Job Number: 12285

Committee Clerk Signature

Nancy L. Gerhardt

Minutes:

Chairman DeKrey: Opened the hearing on HB 1216.

Senator Lyson: On the amendment the senate put in on waterfowl, I would like to have you consider the first 2 weeks of the waterfowl – on the 3 & 5 – the first 5 days would be for all waterfowl, the last week would be for geese only. The reason I'm doing this is because of the number of emails I'm getting from farmers around the center part of the state, from your area, some of them, saying we got to get rid of some of these geese. I'm just throwing that out as a discussion at this point. What this would do, is an out of state person would take this opportunity, would only be able to hunt waterfowl, ducks & geese, for 10 days rather than the 14 days they can now. The last 5 days they'd have to hunt only geese. I would think that would pacify the local hunters. Now they have 2 weekends they can hunt all waterfowl, because they have 14 days. This would allow them only 10 days they can hunt duck, and only 5 days to hunt only geese. Then when they came back, if they are out of state, and have family in ND and come back for Thanksgiving, they can save that time to hunt geese.

Chairman DeKrey: That would actually reduce the number of days on just ducks and increase it on geese?

Senator Lyson: That's right. What it would do is reduce the number of days duck hunting to 10, and the last 5 days they could only hunt geese.

Chairman DeKrey: I have a question for Game & Fish. Would you have any problems enforcing this. How would you change your licenses and enforce that?

Roger Rostvet: Game & Fish – If you kept the 2 – 7 day periods like it is right now, it would be no change at all. That's the way it is in the bill right now. There is 2 – 7 day periods. If you added 3 – 5 day periods, one which could only be used for geese, we could issue them off the computer for goose only. It would be a little messy, but a lot of things are a little messy. You could have that option in there.

Rep. Porter: The way I understand it, the individual would lose 4 days of duck hunting. The other 5 days would be goose only.

Mr. Rostvet: If the bill is left in tack one of the 3 – 5 day periods could be for goose only. There would still be the sections in there that says they can take a waterfowl license for consecutive days, or 2 -7 day periods. In addition to that you would have the option for 3 – 5 day periods, 2 for waterfowl – all inclusive – and then 1 for goose only.

Rep. Porter: How would you keep track of which 5 day period the individual's on, if they're on a duck and goose 5 day or a goose only 5 day period? Typically the thought process is the ducks leave sooner. Under your scenario if they came over for the early goose and the ducks were still in the state and they used that additional 5 day period, that would be goose only for that early goose. How would you keep track of what they should be hunting as the season progresses.

Mr. Rostvet: It would get rather complicated because you are throwing in a whole variety of choices. One of the things we have right now for non residents can change their dates. We

do have a fairly complicated system right now. I'm sure we can indicate somehow on their licenses indicate which way they wanted their hunting dates to be.

Rep. Porter: From the zones 1, 2 & 3 how would that be put back into play so the pressure would still be spread out? Would we be saying, if you bought the 3 – 5's an individual would only be able to be in zone 1 or 2 for 5 days, where now they could be 7 days for the 14 consecutive permits.

Mr. Rostvet: They would have to abide by the zones that are in law, meaning if they were going to bounce between the different zones they would have to buy a state wide license.

Rep. Porter: When you say the state wide license, I thought for waterfowl there was only 1 – 14 day consecutive license. You got 7 days in zone 1 or zone 2 and the remaining 7 days in zone 3 or the rest of the state. Has that changed?

Mr. Rostvet: Last session it was allowed that there is a state wide waterfowl license that excludes the zones. You buy one of those and you can hunt all the zones.

Rep. Hunskor: Senator Lyson, was it your intent that the 3rd, is for geese only? The first 2 have to be waterfowl, could you mix them around?

Senator Lyson: I didn't think it out to the point you could do that. If we came up with a 5 – 5 – 5, I'm thinking the Game & Fish would, when they put those out, you would have to come in and say, " Here's the 5 day period I would only hunt geese". If it is going to be an early season or a late season. They would fix the license up for that date saying goose only or whatever they are going to say.

Rep. Porter: The way you explained it does the 14 consecutive days go away and that's all we're selling is the 5 – 5 - 5?

Senator Lyson: That is not what I said. Right now, under this bill, they have a choice.

Mr. Rostvet: Right now, the bill itself, you are correct. There's multiple choice in this one.

This one would give you 2 – 7 days, a 14 day, or 3 – 5 day licenses.

Senator Schneider: Could you refresh my memory, what's SD's nonresident waterfowl season looks like and how that compares to ND?

Mr. Rostvet: I believe they have a quota down there. There is 4,000 state wide licenses and 2,000 specialty ones for like goose hunting along the Missouri River. The last time I checked the total was about 6,000 for the entire state.

Senator Lyson: What do we sell in ND? What's the approximate number we are selling?

Mr. Rostvet: 30,000 to about 19,000.

Chairman DeKrey: Well, members of the committee, unless somebody is going to make a motion I'm going to adjourn pretty quickly. I have a 9:30 in the Pioneer and I've got to get my clerk and intern down there to set up for the next meeting.

Senator Lyson: I threw this out to see if there was a lot of objections to it I would not have it drawn up into a formal amendment. If there is not a lot of heartburn over this I will have it and we could get that done today. I just wanted to get the feeling of how you people would want to do it.

Chairman DeKrey: The fewer days of duck season is worrying some to me. I have been getting a lot of emails from constituents that are really opposed to the waterfowl in there in the first place because, among other things, they naturally don't like out of state hunters real well in Lincoln anyway. I personally am not all that opposed to it, but what I'm getting from my district I will have a hard time selling any addition of waterfowl.

Senator Lyson: Those are probably the duck hunters that don't want them to be there.

Rep. Hunskor: Is there a problem if a person comes to hunt waterfowl and the ducks are gone and geese are gone. You come for the goose only, and the geese are gone, you can't shoot ducks, but the ducks are there. Does that present a problem?

Senator Lyson: That's the way it is right now, and I'm guessing your just SOL.

Rep. Porter: I guess it kind of falls back in hearing the discussion on one of the reasons that I'm not excited about a water fowl component to bill. I think it's a very complicated issue. I don't necessary disagree with Senator Lyson on some of the concepts he's throwing out, but I think by sitting in this room with 2 people and trying to adjust an entire section of the law presents a problem to itself. I think as we look at this, in hearing what Senator Lyson's talking about, it almost needs to be 2 separate licenses. You buy nonresident duck license and you buy nonresident goose license. That would uncomplcates Game and Fish a little more. Or you can buy a combination license of duck and goose. It's not as simple as an amendment, when it's that complicated an issue and that emotional of an issue also. I'm still not very excited about doing it.

Chairman DeKrey: This amendment puts Senator Freborg and myself between a rock & a hard place in our districts. We have a rural area out there and we'd almost love to pay hunters to come, and then we've got a lot of the Bismarck area that has a lot of instate waterfowl hunters that are just as adamantly opposed to it as the landowners are for it.

Rep. Hunskor: I come from the Kenmare area and those folks are on top of this and they want waterfowl component.

Senator Schneider: I guess if we are taking a survey, I voted against this bill in committee and on the floor. I would prefer to wipe the waterfowl addition clean, just get rid of it. But limiting it is the next best thing.

Chairman Dekrey: We will adjourn and reschedule.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1216

House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 4-27-09 3 PM

Recorder Job Number: 12304

Committee Clerk Signature

Nancy L. Gerhardt

Minutes:

Chairman DeKrey: We will call the hearing on HB 1216 to order. I understand Senator Lyson you have a motion.

Senator Lyson: I move the senate recede from their amendment.

Senator Schneider: 2nd.

Chairman DeKrey: It has been moved by Senator Lyson that the senate recede from their amendment and 2nd by Senator Schneider. The clerk will call the roll.

Vote: 5 Yes 1 No 0 Absent Motion passes

Seeing no other motions we are adjourned.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
(ACCEDE/RECEDE)**

Bill Number 1216 (, as (re)engrossed):

Date: 4-21-2009

Your Conference Committee HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES

For the Senate:

For the House:

Roll		YES / NO	Roll		YES / NO
P	Senator S. LYSON		P	Chairman DEKREY	
P	Senator L. Erborg		P	REP. PORTER	
P	Senator M. Schneider		P	REP. HUNSKOR	

recommends that the (SENATE/HOUSE) (ACCEDE to) (RECEDE from)

the (Senate/House) amendments on (SJ/HJ) page(s) _____ -- _____

_____, and place _____ on the Seventh order.

_____, adopt (further) amendments as follows, and place _____ on the Seventh order:

_____, having been unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed.

((Re)Engrossed) _____ was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

DATE: _____

CARRIER: _____

LC NO.	of amendment
LC NO.	of engrossment
Emergency clause added or deleted	
Statement of purpose of amendment	

MOTION MADE BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

OTE COUNT ___ YES ___ NO ___ ABSENT

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
(ACCEDE/RECEDE)**

Bill Number 1216 (, as (re)engrossed):

Date: 4-27-2009

Your Conference Committee HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES

For the Senate:

For the House:

Roll		YES / NO	Roll		YES / NO
P	Senator S. LYSON	✓	P	Chairman DEKREY	✓
P	Senator L. Erberg	✓	P	REP. PORTER	✓
P	Senator M. Schneider	✓	P	REP. HUNSKOR	✓

recommends that the (SENATE/HOUSE) (ACCEDE to) (RECEDE from)

the (Senate/House) amendments on (SJ/HJ) page(s) _____ - _____

✓, and place 1216 on the Seventh order.

_____, adopt (further) amendments as follows, and place _____ on the Seventh order:

_____, having been unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed.

((Re)Engrossed) _____ was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

DATE: 4-27-2009

CARRIER: Rep. Dekrey

LC NO.	of amendment
LC NO.	of engrossment
Emergency clause added or deleted	
Statement of purpose of amendment	

MOTION MADE BY: Senator Lyson

SECONDED BY: Senator Schneider

VOTE COUNT 5 YES 1 NO 0 ABSENT

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

HB 1216: Your conference committee (Sens. Lyson, Freborg, Schneider and Reps. DeKrey, Porter, Hunskor) recommends that the **SENATE RECEDE** from the Senate amendments on HJ page 643 and place HB 1216 on the Seventh order.

HB 1216 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

2009 TESTIMONY

HB 1216

HB1216

1

Mr. Chairman

Members of House Natural Resources Committee

HB1216 proposes to allow non-resident hunters three periods of five consecutive days to hunt small game. This only expands their hunting days by one, but allows them the opportunity to return one additional time to our state.

With your indulgence, this is what happened this past season with our family. One of my sons, who grew up on our farm and still help out from time to time, was a member of the ND National Guard, graduated from NDSU and now lives in Minnesota because of his job. My son likes to hunt and he brought his family back for the first part of pheasant season where he purchased a license for himself, his spouse and my grandson. It cost about three hundred dollars just for three non-resident licenses and they all had an enjoyable time. They made a return trip later in the season to complete the first license.

My son and his family came back for the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. He chose to only get another license for himself, stating it was too costly, and that he already gave N.D. four hundred dollars. My grandson had to sit out the last couple of hunts. It doesn't seem fair as they love to come to the farm; my son still considers it home.

By extending non-resident hunting to three periods would also be good economic development for our communities. It would allow hunters to travel back into our state an additional time; purchasing fuel, supplies, room and possibly consuming another meal or beverage.

I ask for your favorable consideration.

Thank you,

Representative James Kerzman

Cass County
WILDLIFE CLUB
Box 336
Casselton, ND 58012

#2



TESTIMONY OF FOSTER RAY HAGER
CASS COUNTY WILDLIFE CLUB
PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
on
HB 1216
January 23, 2009

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The CCWC is opposed to this bill because we feel it will hurt the small motel industry plus many other small businesses.

Many non-residents will come four weekends, spend one night in a motel every weekend, instead of several nights.

This bill appears to benefit non-residents that live in states that border North Dakota.

This bill will increase the number of birds they may take compared to possession in a 14 day season.

Youth that are in school will be dealing with these non-residents almost every weekend.

If the non-resident wishes to hunt more than 14 days or 15 days just buy another license.



HB 1216

Mr. Chairman,
Members of Senate Natural Resources Committee,

HB 1216 proposes to allow non-resident hunters three periods of five consecutive days to hunt upland game. This proposal would only expand their hunting days by one, but would allow them the opportunity to return one additional time to our state.

Our oldest son, who was involved with the ND National Guard, graduate of NDSU, has a vital interest in our farm and loves the outdoors, but lives in neighboring state because of work, brought this fact home. His family purchased their hunting licenses - one for himself, his spouse and my grandson. They hunted first part of season for couple of weekends – only allowed to take back, I believe, a four-day limit, so can't hunt for seven in a row anyhow, so may be beneficial to split up season. Plus when my son and his family returned for holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas, he decided to only renew his license, stating he already spent enough for fees; his spouse sat out hunts.

By extending non-resident hunting to three periods would also be good economic development

HB 1216

for our rural communities. It would allow and encourage hunters to travel back into our state an additional time; purchasing fuel, supplies, room and possibly consuming another meal or beverage.

I ask for your favorable consideration.

Thank you, I'd be happy to address any questions.

Roger Kaseman, representing the North Dakota Wildlife Federation
701-751-0882

Testimony opposing HB 1216

Mister Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Roger Kaseman. I represent the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. The North Dakota Wildlife Federation strongly opposes HB 1216.

HB 1216, will in all probability increase hunting pressure on pheasant, grouse and partridge.

Mister Chairman, members of this committee, we are at the tail end one of the hardest winters on record, a winter that refuses to go away. Hunters are holding their breath hoping that enough of our game survives to provide seed stock for a quick recovery from this winter kill. This is not the best time to tinker with the licensing structure we have in place.

Some argue adding time for out of state hunters is good for a few extra dollars in economic development. This bill and this issue is a good time and good reason for legislators and citizens to think about resident hunters and what they mean to local economies. While I personally don't travel to another part of the state to hunt and spend money, myself and 3 or 4 others make a trip to Williston for the paddle fishing season.

We will have less game when this winter ends. A few weeks ago that was a probability, now it's a sure thing. The present license structure is a known; this proposed change is an unknown. The law of unintended consequences is sure to apply. Making a change that will apply more hunting pressure on our game is not the right thing to do.

The North Dakota Wildlife Federation understands that licensing structures, both resident and non-resident, are a tool used to manage pressure on game. Based on the hard winter our game is enduring and the probable mortality rate, the North Dakota Wildlife Federation believes now is not the time to tinker with the licensing structure. We urge the members of this committee to vote a do not pass recommendation.

Thank you.

Cass County
WILDLIFE CLUB
Box 336
Casselton, ND 58012



TESTIMONY OF FOSTER RAY HAGER
CASS COUNTY WILDLIFE CLUB
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
on
HB 1216
February 26, 2009

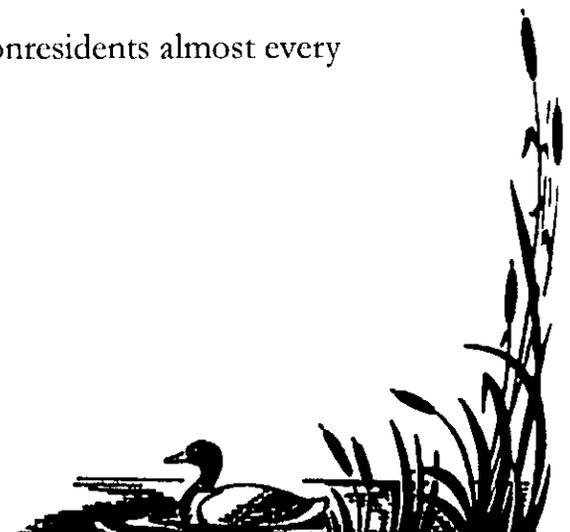
Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Cass County Wildlife Club, is opposed to this bill because we feel the Game & Fish Department has a very good nonresident small game license policy now.

First fourteen days is only \$7.14 a day. All other licenses purchased are \$6.07 a day. The club feels that the price is not too high and there is no limit on the number of licenses that may be purchased.

The licenses may be divided into seven day periods. Seven day periods coincide with the nonresident duck and goose licenses.

Youth that are in school will be dealing with nonresidents almost every weekend.



Proposed Amendment to House Bill No. 1216

Page 1, line 8, overstrike "any period of fourteen consecutive days or any"

Renumber accordingly

North Dakota

Tourism Alliance Partnership

P.O. Box 2599
Bismarck, ND 58502
(701) 355-4458
FAX (701) 223-4645

2008-2009 MEMBERS

Basin Electric
Power Cooperative

Bismarck-Mandan CVB

Buffalo City Tourism

Destination Marketing
Association of North Dakota

Devils Lake CVB

Dickinson CVB

Fargo-Moorhead CVB

Abraham
Lincoln Foundation

Greater Grand Forks CVB

International Peace Garden

Lewis & Clark Fort
Mandan Foundation

Municipal Airport Authority
of the City of Fargo

ND Aeronautics Commission

ND Tourism Division

Newman Outdoor Advertising

Norsk Hostfest Association

Odney Communications Group

Select Inn of Bismarck

Spirit Lake Casino and Resort

State Historical Society of
North Dakota Foundation

Theodore Roosevelt
Medora Foundation

Woodland Resort, Inc.

Testimony of Dana Bohn
Tourism Alliance Partnership Executive Director
HB 1216
February 26, 2009

Chairman Lyson and members of the committee, my name is Dana Bohn. I am here today on behalf of the Tourism Alliance Partnership (TAP) asking for your support of HB 1216. TAP is a coalition of tourism-related industries, including CVBs, state attractions, businesses and other interested stakeholders.

Tourism is one of the largest industries in North Dakota and offers some of the best opportunities for economic growth for the state. As you know hunting and fishing are important components of our industry. Tourism businesses want visitors to come to North Dakota as often as possible. These are trying times for the tourism industry nationwide because people have less discretionary dollars. We believe that providing more flexibility for the non-resident small game hunter will help attract additional visitors to North Dakota.

North Dakota is attractive to outdoor enthusiasts from around the country. According to North Dakota Game and Fish, more than 53 percent of all small game licenses in 2007 were issued to non-residents. Non-resident hunters spent \$7.1 million on licenses that year.

Creating more flexibility for non-resident hunters in North Dakota will have a positive economic impact on the state of North Dakota, especially the rural communities that host many of these sportsmen, who bring new money and additional tax revenue to our state. We believe local tourism-related businesses will benefit from the additional flexibility in scheduling that this bill encourages.

We urge your support of HB 1216.