

Dear Chairman Todd Porter and members of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

My name is Michael Erickson and I am resident of Lidgerwood, ND. I am writing this letter to express my support for legislation regarding hunting licenses for non-resident members of the North Dakota National Guard.

I have served in the Minnesota National Guard for 16 years and have recently transferred to the North Dakota National Guard. I was a resident of North Dakota for a significant portion of the 16 years spent serving in the MN National Guard. During that time, I witnessed first-hand the positive affects of Legislation which MN has in place regarding actively serving members of the MN National Guard who are non-residents. In MN actively drilling members of the MN National Guard can purchase MN hunting and fishing licenses at resident rate regardless of residency status.

Military readiness is directly impacted by unit cohesion and a sense of comradery amongst fellow Service Members. Building that closeness is challenging for National Guard units as members are commonly spread throughout the state and even country. I feel that one of the greatest resources of the State of North Dakota is the plentiful hunting and fishing opportunities throughout the state. It is my favorite recreational activity and something that I derive great pleasure in introducing to others. I would love to be able to spend time building lasting relationships with my fellow Service Members while enjoying hunting and fishing in ND. For non-resident Service Members the short hunting periods offered to out of state hunters and the prohibitive cost of licenses creates a significant barrier to these Soldiers to enjoy the natural resources of a state they have sworn to serve and defend. I would like to see ND National Guard Members to be able to enjoy the same benefits as Soldiers serving in the MN National Guard in terms of outdoor recreational activities.

I sincerely thank you in your consideration on this topic.

Respectfully,

Michael Erickson