

My name is Ron Kill, I am a resident of Lidgerwood, ND. I am writing to express my support for legislation HB 1178 regarding hunting licenses for non-resident members of the North Dakota National Guard.

I served for 25 years, active duty in the United States Air Force. I transferred to 12 different bases in my career. The one constant my family and I had, was that we could enjoy the outdoors/hunting sports wherever we were stationed. This gave us a sense of stability in our new surroundings. I was surprised to find out that as military friendly North Dakota is, that our men and women in the North Dakota Guard, that are non-residents but serve in the ND Guard must pay non-resident rates for hunting and fishing licenses. Currently non-resident college students can purchase resident rate licenses. Why; are not the brave men and women serving our states armed forces afforded the same? I know in Minnesota actively drilling members of the MN National Guard can purchase MN hunting and fishing licenses at resident rate regardless of residency status.

I can tell you from my experience, that a sense of comradery is best forged from military members interacting not only on duty, but off duty as well. Hunting and fishing are great ways for members to bond together with a common interest. National Guard units members are commonly spread throughout the state and even country. To coordinate a group activity away from military orders would be challenging under normal circumstances, now coupled with a high non-resident license fee and it has made it certainly fiscally unfeasible. North Dakota has some of the best hunting and fishing in the midwest. These activities are a great way to relieve stress and are outlets to calm the minds of military members that suffer from PTSD. (I can testify to this fact personally). The members of the North Dakota Guard are who we are going to call upon in time of emergency to protect our families, regardless of which state they reside in, it is the state North Dakota that these brave men and women choose to serve. They protect our families, so we should treat them as family.

Respectfully,

Ronald Kill