

# *Don't Take The Bait - It's a Bad Bill*

## *HB184 and SB189*

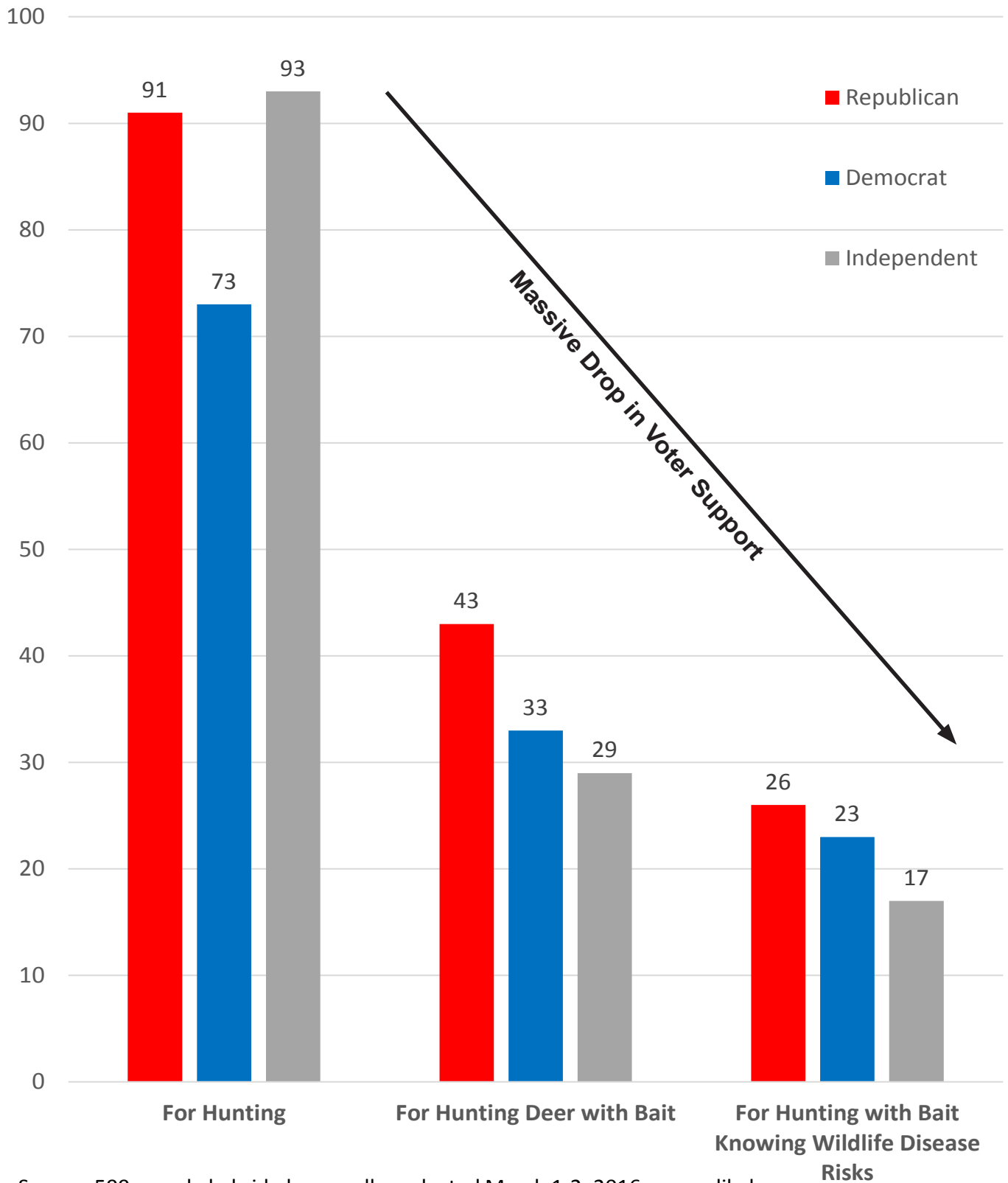
The Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF), Alabama's oldest and largest citizen's conservation organization, passed a Resolution in 2001 against baiting and our position and recommendation against baiting remains the same.

### **BOTTOM LINE – BAITING IS BAD FOR THE RESOURCE**

- ❖ It increases the chance for wildlife disease transmission and spread – diseases such as: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Hemorrhagic Disease in deer, as well as Aflatoxicosis in turkeys (aflatoxins in corn can have major impacts Wild Turkeys)
- ❖ CWD is now found in over 20 states in the U.S. and getting closer and closer to Alabama. Last year it was found in Arkansas – two states away from Alabama. States spend millions of dollars dealing with CWD when it arrives.
- ❖ Shutting down feeding/baiting after disease is detected is not a cure-all; diseases will arrive on the landscape before they are detected. Baiting allows the table to be pre-set for transmission and spread before and after they are discovered.
- ❖ It makes wildlife, especially turkeys, quail and other ground nesting birds more susceptible to predators
- ❖ The notion that legalizing hunting of deer and feral pigs over corn/bait is the answer to controlling feral pigs is absolutely backwards – it will not solve the problem, IT WILL MAKE IT WORSE.
- ❖ RECENT POLLING CONFIRMS TREMENDOUS VOTER OPPOSITION:
  1. 80% of the general public objects to hunting with the aid of bait; without the aid of bait they support it overwhelmingly
  2. Opposition/Support for baiting among hunters is about split down the middle. BUT when advised of the risks of wildlife disease transmission and spread, support among hunters drops 23% and OPPOSITION SURPASSES support in every hunter age category.
- ❖ **Don't gamble with our wildlife resources and VOTER support for hunting.**

# 2016 Alabama Voter Support For Hunting and Drop in Support with Baiting

**% Voter Support**



Source: 599 sample hybrid phone poll conducted March 1-2, 2016 among likely 2016 Alabama General Election voters. Poll commissioned by the Alabama Wildlife Federation.