

Re: Please Oppose Any Legislation to Remove Wolves from the Endangered Species Act

June 10, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

We, the undersigned animal protection and conservation organizations, small business owners, and Native American tribal representatives, and on behalf of our millions of supporters throughout the United States, urge you to oppose any legislation to remove any or all wolves from protections under the federal Endangered Species Act (“ESA”).

Since the 1980s wolf recovery has had some great successes, as we now have wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains and western Great Lakes. The return of this iconic species has driven tourism and economic gains. For example, in the states surrounding Yellowstone National Park, the annual visitor spending has increased by \$35.5 million since the reintroduction of wolves.¹ Additionally, the ecological benefit of this keystone species is significant. Wolves are critical to maintaining the structure and integrity of their native ecosystems.

Gray wolf populations are still recovering from centuries of persecution and habitat loss and cannot reach full recovery without federal protections. Wolves have begun to repopulate some of their historic range, demonstrating fragile successes in the recovery effort. However, there is still significant work to be done. Wolves are still missing from suitable habitat across the country and are subject to mounting persecution where they currently exist. It is too soon to remove wolves from the ESA protections, as multiple federal courts have confirmed.

Myriad polls show Americans want wolves restored to the American landscape and conserved for future generations.² Despite this sentiment, wolves in states that no longer have federal wolf protections have been subjected to increasingly hostile state management practices. Continued federal protections are essential to give wolves a chance for survival and recovery.

The ESA is one of America’s most effective and important environmental laws, serving as a safety net for plants, fish, and wildlife on the brink of extinction. The ESA represents a commitment by the American people to protect and restore those species at risk of disappearing forever. Polling shows 84 percent of Americans support the ESA, while 87 percent recognize that it has proven successful in protecting wildlife, plants, and fish from extinction.³ No law has been more important in preventing species extinctions, including bald eagles, gray whales and

¹ Duffield, John W., Chris J. Neher and David A. Patterson. "Wolf Recovery in Yellowstone: Park Visitor Attitudes, Expenditures, and Economic Impacts." *Yellowstone Science* 16, no. 1 (2008): 21-25.

² See Manfredo, M.J., A.D. Bright, J. Pate and G. Tischbein. "Colorado Residents' Attitudes and Perceptions toward Reintroduction of the Gray Wolf (*Canis Lupus*) into Colorado. Project Report No. 21." Human Dimensions in Natural Resources Unit, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO, 1994; Meadow, R., R.P. Reading, M.K. Phillips, M. Mehringer and B.J. Miller. "The Influence of Persuasive Argument of Public Attitudes toward a Proposed Wolf Restoration in the Southern Rockies." *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 33, no. 1 (2005): 154-163; Bennett, L.E. 1994. Colorado gray wolf recovery: A biological feasibility study. Final Report. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and University of Wyoming Fish and Wildlife Cooperative research unit, Laramie, Wyoming; Kellert, Stephen. 1999; Kellert, S. R. *The Public and the Wolf in Minnesota*. New Haven, CT: Yale University. <http://www.wolf.org/wow/united-states/minnesota/attitudes-and-issues-8/>; Mason-Dixon Polling & Research Inc. 2013, available at http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2013/06/wisconsin-voters-support-protecting-wolves-061913.html

³ National poll by Harris Interactive, 2011, available at http://www.defenders.org/publications/endangered_species_act_poll.pdf.

the peregrine falcon. Unfortunately, the 2011 appropriations rider that delisted wolves in Idaho, Montana, and parts of Oregon, Washington, and Utah set a terrible precedent and rendered the ESA vulnerable to other congressional attacks. Further “death by a thousand cuts” erosion of the ESA must be stopped.

Today we stand at a critical crossroads for wolf recovery. Will we halt our nation’s commitment to bringing back wolves, or will we give these iconic animals a fighting chance at survival and recovery? We urge you to oppose any legislation that removes federal protections for wolves.

Sincerely,

**NATIONAL CONSERVATION AND
ANIMAL WELFARE
ORGANIZATIONS**

Michael Markarian
Chief Program and Policy Officer
The Humane Society of the United States

Tehri Parker
Executive Director
Rocky Mountain Wild

Brett Hartl
Endangered Species Policy Director
Center for Biological Diversity

Dan Ehresman
Executive Director
Northcoast Environmental Center

Mary Beth Beetham
Director of Legislative Affairs
Defenders of Wildlife

Jeff Flocken
Regional Director, North America
International Fund for Animal Welfare

Marty Hayden
Vice President
Policy and Legislation
Earthjustice

Camilla H. Fox
Founder & Executive Director
Project Coyote

David Goldston
Director, Government Affairs Program
Natural Resources Defense Council

Adam Roberts
Chief Executive Officer
Born Free USA

Athan Manuel
Director, Lands Protection Program
Sierra Club

Shelley Silbert
Executive Director
Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Mike Daulton
Government Relations and Director of
National Programs
National Audubon Society

Nancy Warren
Executive Director
National Wolfwatcher Coalition

Cathy Liss
President
Animal Welfare Institute

Kirk C Robinson, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Western Wildlife Conservancy

Stephen Wells
Executive Director
Animal Legal Defense Fund

John R. Mellgren
Staff Attorney
Western Environmental Law Center

Greg Costello
Executive Director
Wildlands Network

David Parsons
Carnivore Conservation Biologist
The Rewilding Institute

Anja Heister
Director, Wild and Free-Habitats Campaign
In Defense of Animals

Garrick Dutcher
Program and Research Director
Living with Wolves

Bethany Cotton
Wildlife Program Director
WildEarth Guardians

Jonathan Way, PhD
Founder
Eastern Coyote/Coywolf research

Marla Wilson
Acting Executive Director
Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust

Leda Huta
Executive Director
Endangered Species Coalition

Adam DeParolesa
Outreach Coordinator
North American Wolf Foundation (Wolf Hollow)

Howard Goldman
Director
Friends of Animals and Their Environment

Brooks Fahy
Executive Director
Predator Defense

Laurele Fulkerson
Policy Director
Gifford Pinchot Task Force

Maggie Howell
Executive Director
Wolf Conservation Center

Louise Kane
Founder
Justice For Wolves

LOCAL AND STATE ORGANIZATIONS

Travis Bruner
Executive Director
Western Watersheds Project
Tucson, AZ

Karin Vardaman
Director of California Wolf Recovery
California Wolf Center
Julian, CA

Dan Silver
Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League
Los Angeles, CA

Amy Trainer
Executive Director
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin
Point Reyes, CA

Natalynne DeLapp
Executive Director
Environmental Protection Information Center
Arcata, CA

Kimberly Baker
Executive Director
Klamath Forest Alliance
Yreka, CA

Lorin Lindner, PhD and Matthew Simmons
Co-Founders
Lockwood Animal Rescue Center
Frazier Park, CA

Karen Wilson
Executive Director
WildCare
San Rafael, CA

Lorin Lindner, PhD and Matthew Simmons
Co-Founders
New England Wolf Advocacy and Rescue Center
North Conway, NH

Stephen Capra
Executive Director
Bold Visions Conservation
Albuquerque, NM

Steve & Wendy Hall
NY State Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators
Adirondack Wildlife Refuge & Rehabilitation Center
Wilmington, NY

Jym St. Pierre
Maine Director
RESTORE: The North Woods
Concord, MA

John M. Glowa, Sr.,
President
The Maine Wolf Coalition, Inc.
South China, ME

Linda Muite-Carmean
President
Devoted Friends Animal Society, Inc.
Ortonville, MI

Ellen D. M. Stephenson
President
Elizabeth Lake Animal Rescue
Union Lake, MI

Akshay Verma
President and Co-Founder
Michigan State University Student Chapter
Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association
Lansing, MI

Linda Hatfield
Director
HOWL (Help Our Wolves Live)
Minneapolis, MN

Maureen Hackett, MD
Founder and President
Howling for Wolves
Hopkins, MN

Linda Challeen
Executive Director
Minnesota Humane Society
St. Paul, MN

Kathryn Quam
Board Member
Minnesota Voters for Animal Protection
Minneapolis, MN

Karen Good
Founder and Director
Red Lake Rosie's Rescue
Trail, MN

Peggy Farr
Founder
Wildwoods
Duluth, MN

Connie Poten
Secretary
Footloose Montana
Missoula, MT

Marc Cooke
President
Wolves of the Rockies
Stevensville, MT

Kathy Henley
Northeast regional Wolf & Predator
Organizer
**Endangered Species Coalition &
Wildlands Network**
Marlborough, NH

Donald A. Molde
Co-Founder
**Nevadans for Responsible Wildlife
Management**
Reno, NV

Maggie Howell
Coordinator
Northeast Wolf Coalition
South Salem, NY

Michael Krochta
Forest Watch Coordinator
Bark
Sandy, OR

Louise Shimmel
Executive Director
Cascades Raptor Center
Eugene, OR

Ann Vileisis
President
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
Port Orford, OR

Debbie Schlenoff
Conservation Chair
Lane County Audubon Society
Eugene, OR

Wally Sykes
Co-Founder
NE Oregon Ecosystems
North Eastern, OR

Steve Pedery,
Conservation Director,
Oregon Wild
Portland, OR

Bettina Bowers
Animal Care Director
Walden's Puddle WREC
Joelton, TN

Bill Hilton Jr.
Executive Director
**Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural
History**
York, SC

Rick McGuire
President
Alpine Lakes Protection Society
Alpine Lakes Wilderness, WA

Dave Werntz
Science and Conservation Director
Conservation Northwest
Seattle, WA

Jeff Petersen
Executive Director
Fund for Wild Nature
Kelso, WA

Karl Forsgaard
President
North Cascades Conservation Council
North Cascades Park, WA

Tim McNulty
Vice president
Olympic Park Associates
Port Angeles, WA

Sharon Negri
Director
WildFutures
Bainbrigde Island, WA

Kimberlee Wright
Executive Director
Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc.
Madison, WI

Melanie Weberg
Executive Director
Wildlife Public Trust & Coexistence
Star Prairie, WI

Pam McCloud Smith
Board President
Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies
Madison, WI

Eilene Ribbens
Executive Director
Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project
Sheboygan, WI

Adam Kassulke
Director
Wisconsin Wolf Front
Milwaukee, WI

Rachel Tilseth
Founder and President
Wolves of Douglas County Wisconsin
Douglas County, WI

Buffalo Bruce
Western Nebraska Resources Council
Washington, D.C.

Eric Glitzenstein
President
Wildlife Advocacy Project
Washington, D.C.

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Kathy Ann Walsh
Phoenix Broad Band
Phoenix, AZ

Katherine Conrad
Vice President and Co-Founder
Cubizm, LLC
San Carlos, CA

Maria Arefieva
Owner
Aspen Websites,
Colorado Springs, CO
Kyle Robinson

Owner
Print My Threads
Flatwoods, KY

John Thornton
Owner
Thornton's Car Clinic
Litchfield, ME

Daniel Tandy
Owner
The Advertising Specialists of Maine, Inc.
Bangor, ME

Kirk O'Green
O'Green Company,
Rochester Hills, MI

Sandy Neal,
Owner
GiftLoft Furniture
Portage, MI

Karen Tracey
Owner
The Image Shoppe
Grand Rapids, MI

Jenifer Strauss,
Story Be Told Productions
Kalamazoo, MI

Bob Lovik
Grand Traverse Adventure Company
Traverse City, MI

Linda Wood
Owner
Play Environments, Inc.
Holland, MI

Margaret and Larry Conti
Co-owners
Unlimited Sources, LLC
Dryden, MI

Scott Newell
Owner
Big City Small World Bakery LLC
Ann Arbor, MI

Sherrí Wiegman
Wiegman Co., Inc.
Lansing, MI

Scott Harris
Owner
Everybody Reads LLC
Lansing, MI

Susan Letts
Susan Letts Landscape Design, LLC,
Harbor Springs, MI

Ken Orlang
Owner
**The Woods "Tahquamenon River"
Canoe & Kayak Rental**
Newberry, MI

Maria Cancro
CEO & Designer
Visible Design LLC
Jackson, MI

Christopher Loch
Owner
Contempl8 T-Shirts
Minneapolis, MN

Christine Wisch
President
Kestrel Consulting, Ltd
Edina, MN

Christopher Loch
Business Owner
Contempl8
Minneapolis, MN

Greg Benson
Chief Executive Officer
Loll Design
Duluth, MN

L. S. Monroe
Owner
Monroe Telecom Associates, LLC
Wake Forest, NC

Gia Machlin
President & CEO
EcoPlum
New York, NY

Karl Wald
CEO
Mr. Ellie Pooh, LLC
Millersburg, PA

Paul J. Bratti
Co-Owner
Animaashi Sailing Company
Bayfield, WI

David Rack
Owner
Door County Kayak Tours, LLC
Fish Creek, WI

Joe and Mary Hovel
Owners
Big Bear Hideaway
Boulder Junction, WI

Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps
3166 Mount Pleasant St. NW
Washington, DC

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Aaron Payment
Chairman
**Sault Ste. Marie Band of Chippewa
Indians of Michigan**

Frank Cloutier
Public Relations Director
**Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of
Michigan**

Frank Ettawageshik
Executive Director
United Tribes of Michigan

EE-Suk-Yah
(Jimmy St. Goddard)
Spiritual Leader
Blackfoot Confederacy of Montana

Nikos Pastos
Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreille Tribes
of the Flathead Nation
Flathead Nation of Montana

Chad Abels
Treaty Natural Resource Administrator
**Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa Indians**