

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 4, 2022

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bruce Westerman,

We are writing to request that you schedule a Natural Resources Committee hearing on H.R. 286, the Managing Predators Act. This legislation would restore the authority in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan, and reinforce the authority in Wyoming of state officials to implement their own management strategies with regard to the gray wolf. While there are other states where this should take place as well, considering this legislation before the committee would be a good place to start and would allow other voices from other states to be heard. For your reference, this bill was referred to the committee on January 12, 2021, and to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

As you may know, an Oakland, California court recently issued a ruling unilaterally “re-listing” the gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).<sup>1</sup> This makes little sense, as ample scientific evidence has documented a massive rebound in wolf populations.<sup>2</sup>

Farmers, ranchers, hunters, and pet-owners have seen enough real-world evidence to know that it is their lives and livelihoods being threatened by federal policy decisions – not the wolves’. And the numbers continue to bear that out. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service originally listed the wolf recovery goal as 100 animals in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Wisconsin.<sup>3</sup> Yet that population had grown to nearly 1,000 – more than 10 times the initial recovery goal – by 2017.<sup>4</sup>

For too long Congress has abdicated its oversight role in defending the prerogatives of the states by allowing radical special interest groups and the courts to convert the ESA list into a perpetual “Hotel California” in which species “check in” – but can never leave. If the science shows that a species has recovered and the agency moves to de-list a species using ample scientific evidence,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nypost.com/2022/02/10/judge-restores-protections-for-gray-wolves/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/oct/29/gray-wolf-endangered-species-list-great-comeback-s/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/wolf/aboutwolves/r3wolfrec.htm>

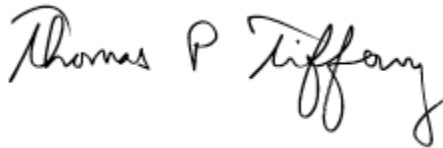
<sup>4</sup> <https://www.wisfarmer.com/story/news/2017/06/14/wisconsins-official-wolf-population-closing-1-000-animals/396393001/>

then it should be de-listed. If states and stakeholders lose faith in the de-listing process, which we are seeing, then there will no longer be any incentive for proactive conservation work and species will suffer.

The American people expect their elected officials to play an active role when it comes to these far-reaching decisions – not to sit idly by as spectators while unelected administrators and judges perpetually move the recovery goal posts.

We hope you will schedule a time for the committee to consider this important legislation and thank you in advance for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney  
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil  
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher  
Member of Congress



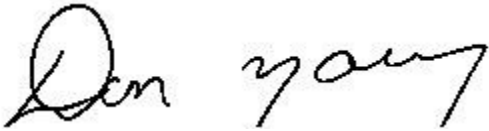
Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald  
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress



Matt Rosendale  
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress