

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 87

Reps. Markkanen, Steven Johnson, Green, Eisen, O'Malley, Bellino, LaFave, VanSingel, Paquette, Howell, Wakeman, Marino, Maddock, Meerman, Allor, Chirkun and Rendon offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to
2 remove the Michigan gray wolf from the federal endangered and
3 threatened species list.

4 Whereas, Gray wolves in Michigan have been protected from harm
5 under the federal Endangered Species Act since 1974 when it was
6 determined that gray wolves needed the special protection provided
7 by the act to aid their recovery; and

8 Whereas, The recovery plan prepared under the federal
9 Endangered Species Act called for a combined population of 100
10 wolves in Michigan and Wisconsin for five consecutive years for



1 delisting to occur. For removal from the state endangered species
2 list, a viable population was defined as 200 animals for five
3 consecutive years; and

4 Whereas, Federal protection of the gray wolf is no longer
5 necessary. Gray wolves have made a remarkable recovery, and the
6 combined Michigan and Wisconsin population has far exceeded 100
7 wolves, with numbers currently being more than 1,000 wolves.
8 Michigan's population has exceeded 200 animals for more than a
9 decade and has held steady between 600 and 700 wolves for several
10 years now. Michigan's current gray wolf population is at least 662
11 wolves. Delisting is long overdue, as Michigan's wolf population
12 has met all federal recovery goals for delisting, even during short
13 times of state management in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin,
14 both in terms of number of wolves and the stability of those
15 numbers; and

16 Whereas, Going forward, Michigan is well prepared to manage
17 gray wolves in the best interest of its residents. Michigan has
18 developed a sound management plan that is reviewed periodically by
19 the Michigan Wolf Management Advisory Council. The plan was
20 developed during roundtable discussions by a wide range of
21 stakeholder interests, including some 20 agencies and organizations
22 that represented the diversity of Michigan interests in wolves.
23 These interests included environmental and ecological interests,
24 hunting and trapping interests, livestock-producer interests,
25 public-safety interests, tourism and resource-development
26 interests, tribes, and wolf protection interests. Using this plan
27 and advice from the advisory council, the Department of Natural
28 Resources can continue to maintain a viable gray wolf population
29 while allowing for more flexibility when conflicts between wolves

1 and other species arise; and

2 Whereas, The gray wolf is an apex predator with no natural
3 enemies. Without management, its population could reach numbers
4 that will be detrimental to other species. Delisting is necessary
5 so that state management may be initiated; now, therefore, be it

6 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
7 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove the gray wolf from the
8 federal endangered and threatened species list in Michigan; and be
9 it further

10 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
11 Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the members of
12 the Michigan congressional delegation.