

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 87

Reps. Markkanen, Steven Johnson, Green, Eisen, O'Malley, Bellino, LaFave, VanSingel, Paquette, Howell, Wakeman, Marino, Maddock and Meerman 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  
11      delisting to occur. For removal from the state endangered species



1 list, a viable population was defined as 200 animals for five  
2 consecutive years; and

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

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



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

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

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