

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 30

Reps. Steven Johnson, Markkanen, Beson, Martin, Maddock, LaFave, Carra and Bellino offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to encourage the National Park Service to
2 establish a moose tag lottery hunt to assist in controlling the
3 moose population on Isle Royale.

4 Whereas, Isle Royale National Park in Michigan is home to an
5 exploding population of moose. The Michigan Technological
6 University Wolf Study 2018-2019 Annual Report estimates moose have
7 increased sharply from a population of 515 in 2011 to 2,060 in
8 2019, an average growth rate greater than 19 percent annually; and

9 Whereas, Issues with the moose-to-wolf ratio over the last
10 several decades have now reached a tipping point, with a current
11 population of only 12 to 14 wolves on Isle Royale as of March 2020.
12 Wolves are the only natural predator of moose on Isle Royale but

1 the diminishing wolf population have not contained the moose
2 population in recent years; and

3 Whereas, The increased and unsustainable moose population on
4 Isle Royale has created an ongoing ecological dilemma as the moose
5 feed on the park's balsam fir trees and other vegetation. The
6 rapidly expanding moose herd will devastate these slow-growing
7 trees and could eliminate them from Isle Royale. In turn, over
8 foraging by the moose population has reduced their food supply,
9 causing moose to starve to death. A slight decline in the moose
10 population during the winter of 2020 has been partially attributed
11 to over foraging; and

12 Whereas, Previous attempts to introduce additional wolves to
13 balance out the moose-to-wolf ratio have not resulted in a long-
14 term sustainable balance of predator and prey; and

15 Whereas, A moose tag lottery hunt will benefit Isle Royale
16 National Park and help restore ecological balance among moose,
17 wolves, and vegetation. Approximately forty national parks
18 currently allow some form of hunting as part of their wildlife
19 management practices; and

20 Whereas, This hunt will provide a unique hunting experience
21 for a number of hunters each year, which in turn will bring
22 increased economic activity to the western Upper Peninsula; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we encourage
25 the National Park Service to establish a moose tag lottery hunt to
26 assist in controlling the moose population on Isle Royale; and be
27 it further

28 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
29 Director of the National Park Service, the members of the Michigan

1 congressional delegation, the Director of the Michigan Department
2 of Natural Resources, and the Governor of Michigan.