

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 30

Reps. Fairbairn, Prestin, Outman, Wortz, Fox, Cavitt, Bohnak, Markkanen, Kunse, Roth, Schuette, Hoadley, Beson, St. Germaine, Neyer, Borton, DeBoyer, DeSana, Alexander, Johnsen, Woolford, Martin and VanderWall offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution urging the United States Congress to enact
2 legislation that would reinstate the Department of Interior's prior
3 removal of the gray wolf from the endangered species list, thus
4 allowing gray wolf population management to be handled at the state
5 level.

6 Whereas, Gray wolves were first classified as an endangered
7 species by the federal government in a first of its kind list
8 issued in 1967. Since this initial listing, gray wolves in Michigan
9 and elsewhere have been federally protected under a variety of
10 laws, including the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and

11 Whereas, Since its first listing, gray wolf populations across

1 the United States - and especially in Michigan - have made a
2 tremendous recovery and stand as a true success story of the
3 Endangered Species Act. As of 2020, gray wolf populations across
4 the United States have swelled to exceed six thousand animals.
5 Accordingly, gray wolves were delisted by the United States
6 Department of Interior that year, giving authority over population
7 management back to the states. However, in 2022, a federal court
8 overturned this delisting, reclassifying gray wolves as an
9 endangered species in 44 states, including Michigan, effectively
10 revoking states' management authority over these animals; and

11 Whereas, Michigan's thriving gray wolf population is evidence
12 that federal protection for these animals through the Endangered
13 Species Act listing is no longer necessary. In its 2024 winter wolf
14 survey, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
15 estimated that there were, at a minimum, over seven-hundred and
16 fifty gray wolves populating the Upper Peninsula, an increase of
17 over a hundred from the DNR's 2022 survey. The growing wolf
18 population in the Upper Peninsula is estimated to be comprised of
19 over one-hundred and fifty wolf packs and, per the DNR's research,
20 remains in equilibrium with available habitat. By continuing to
21 benefit from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act,
22 which prohibits the killing of these predators unless they pose a
23 direct and immediate threat, the gray wolf population may continue
24 to swell and consequently wreak havoc on an already severely
25 declining white-tail deer population in Michigan. Having exceeded
26 expectations, the gray wolf's recovery in Michigan should now be
27 managed at the state level by the expertise of our DNR; now,
28 therefore, be it

29 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the

1 United States Congress to enact legislation that would reinstate
2 the Department of Interior's prior removal of the gray wolf from
3 the endangered species list, thus allowing gray wolf population
4 management to be handled at the state level; and be it further

5 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
6 That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of
7 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
8 Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional
9 delegation.