

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 154

Reps. Steven Johnson, Markkanen, LaFave and LaGrand 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 a current
8 moose population of 2,060, an average growth rate greater than 19
9 percent annually; and

10 Whereas, Issues with the moose-to-wolf ratio over the last
11 several decades have now reached a tipping point, with a current
12 population of only 15 wolves on Isle Royale as of March 2019.



1 Wolves are the only natural predator of moose on Isle Royale but
2 the diminishing wolf population has not contained the moose
3 population in recent years; and

4 Whereas, The increased and unsustainable moose population on
5 Isle Royale has created an ongoing ecological dilemma as the moose
6 feed on the park's balsam fir trees and other vegetation. The
7 rapidly expanding moose herd will devastate these slow-growing
8 trees and could eliminate them from Isle Royale; and

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

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

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

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

25 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
26 Director of the National Park Service, the members of the Michigan
27 congressional delegation, the Director of the Michigan Department
28 of Natural Resources, and the Governor of Michigan.

