

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 233

Reps. Prestin and Markkanen offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to
2 allow the state of Michigan to engage in the scientific management
3 of the species *Canis Lupus*.

4 Whereas, Gray wolves in Michigan were classified as an
5 endangered species by the federal government in the creation of the
6 first endangered species list in 1967. Since their first listing,
7 gray wolves have been federally protected under various endangered
8 species acts, including the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and

9 Whereas, In response to the gray wolf's endangered status,
10 recovery plans have been developed to ensure the survival of viable
11 gray wolf populations in the conterminous United States. The 1978
12 and 1992 recovery plans for gray wolves in the Great Lakes area
13 called for establishing a second population of gray wolves, in

1 addition to the historically established gray wolf populations in
2 Minnesota and on Isle Royale in Michigan. For removal from the
3 federal endangered species list, the recovery plans required a
4 viable population of 100 or 200 gray wolves to be maintained for at
5 least five consecutive years; and

6 Whereas, Federal protection of the gray wolf is no longer
7 necessary. Gray wolves have made a remarkable recovery, and the
8 Michigan wolf population has far exceeded the recovery plan
9 requirements. As of 2020, there are estimated to be more than 695
10 gray wolves in the Upper Peninsula, excluding Isle Royale.
11 Michigan's population has exceeded 200 animals for more than two
12 decades and has remained consistent, between 600 and 700 gray
13 wolves, since 2011. Delisting is long overdue as Michigan's wolf
14 population has met all federal recovery goals for delisting, both
15 in terms of number of wolves and the stability of those numbers;
16 and

17 Whereas, Going forward, Michigan is well prepared to manage
18 gray wolves in the best interest of its residents. The Michigan
19 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has developed a sound
20 management plan that is reviewed periodically by the Michigan Wolf
21 Management Advisory Council. The plan was developed and updated
22 with input by a wide range of stakeholder interests, including some
23 20 agencies and organizations that represented the diversity of
24 Michigan interests in wolves. Using this plan and advice from the
25 advisory council, the DNR continues to maintain a viable gray wolf
26 population in Michigan, while also allowing for more flexibility
27 when conflicts between gray wolves and other species arise; and

28 Whereas, The gray wolf is an apex predator with no natural
29 enemies. Without management, its population could reach numbers

1 that will be detrimental to other species, such as whitetail deer.
2 Delisting the gray wolf from the federal list of endangered and
3 threatened wildlife is necessary so that state management may be
4 initiated; now, therefore, be it

5 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
6 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow the state of Michigan to
7 engage in the scientific management of the species *Canis Lupus*; and
8 be 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.