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Canton, MI 48187

December 1, 2021

Representative Gary Howell
Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Michigan House of Representatives

Via email, Mollie Wingrove, Committee Clerk, mwingrove@house.mi.gov

Re: Support HBs 5358, 5359, 5360, House Natural Resources Committee Meeting, December 2, 2021

Dear Rep. Howell, Committee Members and bill sponsors:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Attorneys for Animals, Inc. (AFA) is a Michigan non-profit and 501(c)(3) organization of legal professionals and animal advocates whose Board of Directors voted to support HBs 5358--5360, which together provide common-sense, appropriate, measured and minimally invasive oversight of the hunting and fishing guide industry. We write to provide another perspective on these bills.

This committee has heard testimony supporting the package from hunting and fishing organizations, and even from some guides who would be regulated if the bills are enacted. However, there are other considerations and other stakeholders that this committee needs to consider and which we bring to its attention.

First, the bills provide some protection for the wildlife and fish themselves, by excluding anyone convicted within three years of offenses related to the taking of fish or wildlife from obtaining a license. Second, the public at large has an interest in the protecting the state's wildlife and fish under the Public Trust Doctrineⁱ and, under which this rather modest regulation and oversight certainly is justified.

We urge the committee to report HBs 5358, 5359 and 5360.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beatrice M. Friedlander".

Beatrice M. Friedlander, JD
President

ⁱ "The government owns and manages certain natural and cultural resources for public use. Natural resources held in trust can include navigable waters, wildlife, or land. The public is considered the owner of the resources; the government is entrusted with managing these resources", https://ballotpedia.org/Public_Trust_Doctrine. The doctrine is reflected in the DNR's most recent, publicly available Strategic Planning document: "Public Trust Responsibilities: The Wildlife Division believes in the public trust doctrine; that wildlife resources are held in trust for the people of Michigan, and it is the privilege and responsibility of the Division to manage those resources wisely." https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Wildlife_GPS_Strategic_Plan_434049_7.pdf, page 8 of 32.