

January 27, 2022

Dear Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee Clerk Wingrove:

I'm a U.P. resident and writing to urge the NRC Committee to oppose passage of SCR7, a resolution to start a wolf hunting and trapping season in Michigan. Wolves help maintain healthy ecosystems, and these sentient animals pose little threat to people, pets or livestock.

As I mentioned, wolves are vital components of healthy ecosystems. Unlike human hunters, wolves tend to cull the weaker members of their prey species, thus maintaining the long-term genetic health of those animals. Since wolves also tend to prey primarily on herbivores, they limit the over-browsing of native plants. For instance, moose numbers on Isle Royale increased significantly after wolf populations there fell sharply, resulting in a significant over-browsing of the island's flora.

Despite numerous claims to the contrary, wolves do not pose a significant risk to Michigan's livestock. Across the country, farmers and ranchers lose nine times more cattle and sheep to problems such as bad weather, disease and theft than to wolves and all carnivores combined. In fact, less than 1% of farms here in the U.P. had any livestock animals killed by wolves. Farmers can use fencing and other deterrents to protect their animals from these predators.

Although wolves have killed some pets, up to 10,000 dogs and cats die each year by ingesting antifreeze, far more than are killed by wolves. Should we ban antifreeze? While the death of any pet or livestock animal due to wolf predation is tragic, the threat is too low to justify the persecution and extermination of this species that plays a key role in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Since the Michigan Department of Natural Resources reports the U.P. wolf population has stabilized around 700, there is no need to hunt/trap these animals.

Recent polls and two 2014 ballot referendums indicate our state residents do not want wolves to be hunted or trapped. Specifically, a statewide survey conducted by researchers at Michigan State and Michigan Technological Universities and published in 2012 found that a large majority of Michigan residents--including a majority of us U.P. residents--agree that wolves have value. These polls found only a very small minority (14%) said they would hunt or trap wolves if such activities were legal.

Clearly, a hunting/trapping season on wolves in Michigan is unnecessary, and in my opinion unethical. I therefore urge the Michigan NRC Committee to oppose passage of SCR7. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin Crupi
129 E Prospect St Apt A
Marquette, MI 49855