



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

October 6, 2016

Speaker Paul D. Ryan  
1233 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

As Speaker of the House of Representatives, we are asking you to encourage Congress to take action and pass the State Wolf Population Management Bill (S.2281) with Senator Johnson and Congressman Ribble's language removing the gray wolf from the Endangered Species List in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Wyoming. This language has also been added to the Senate version of the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2016.

Recently, we hosted the Great Lakes Wolf Summit in Cumberland, Wisconsin. The bipartisan Summit brought together scientists, policy makers and concerned citizens from Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan to discuss the importance of returning wolf management to the states. The presentations and thoughtful discussion confirmed much of what we already know. According to the representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, USDA, and USFWS that presented, the wolf population has fully recovered and has greatly exceeded the state goal of 350 wolves. Now unmanaged, the population of wolves in Wisconsin alone has ballooned to almost 900 wolves. It is clear that the Endangered Species list worked - scientist and conservationists can agree on that. For the wolf to remain on the list, it would be to the detriment of the Endangered Species List and what it is meant to accomplish.

At the summit, we heard story after story about how the wolf is causing havoc in Wisconsin and other Great Lakes states. Those who attended heard from several influential speakers such as Dallas-based attorney, wolf expert, and author of *The Real Wolf* - Ted Lyon, Kurt Thiede, Deputy Director at Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, David Ruid, Wildlife Biologist at USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, Don Peay, Founder of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, and Chief Bruce Mahler from Marenisco Michigan. Chief Mahler expressed in stark terms to the nearly 200 people in attendance about the real and present public safety issue an out-of-control wolf population presents to pets, livestock and even kids.

During the public testimony, northern Wisconsin farmers talked about how they are suffering devastating losses of precious livestock. One of those farmers sadly shared that he was seriously contemplating selling the farm that's been in his family for over 100 years. A mother testified that her children cannot have the same outdoor opportunities she had as a child because she is too afraid of wolf attacks. Because of these stories of loss and fear, over 30 County Boards in Wisconsin have passed resolutions asking for delisting.

We urge you to use all of the tools at your disposal to aid the residents of Wisconsin and the other impacted states to ensure the delisting language remains in the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2016. Thank you for all of the great work you do for our state.

Sincerely,

Representative Adam Jarchow  
28th Assembly District

Senator Tom Tiffany  
12<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Senator Jerry Petrowski  
29<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Senator Luther Olsen  
14<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Representative John Spiros  
86<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Representative Gary Tauchen  
6<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Representative Romaine Quinn  
75<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Representative Joan Ballweg  
41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Representative Rob Swearingen  
34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Representative Bob Kulp  
69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Representative John Nygren  
89<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Senator Robert Cowles  
2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District

Senator Terry Moulton  
23<sup>rd</sup> Senate District

Representative Dave Heaton  
85<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Representative Jim Steineke  
5<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Representative Warren Petryk  
93<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

Representative Jeff Mursau  
36<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Representative Mary Czaja  
35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Representative Tom Larson  
67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

CC: Senator Ron Johnson  
Congressman Reid Ribble  
Senator Tammy Baldwin  
Congressman Sean Duffy