

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 15, 2021

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

We write to ask that you immediately issue an emergency listing to temporarily restore federal protections through the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to the gray wolf.

The gray wolf is a keystone species whose native range spans much of North America. Once extirpated from the lower 48 states, when the gray wolf was reintroduced to the Yellowstone area it caused a trophic cascade of regeneration throughout that ecosystem, demonstrating the fundamental importance of the species for critical ecosystem services that support human health and the economy.ⁱ As we tackle the existential threat of climate change, the gray wolf can help to mitigate climate effects on the ground, and to improve the climate resilience of communities in its range.ⁱⁱ At the same time, gray wolves undoubtedly face new challenges as a result of climate change, further straining the species's ability to survive.ⁱⁱⁱ

While we appreciate the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) decision to conduct a 12-month status review to revisit the listing of the gray wolf in the Northern Rockies, we are extremely concerned that wolves around the country will continue to be needlessly killed in the interim, further jeopardizing the species. We have already seen evidence of mass killings in several states after the gray wolf was delisted, and more, larger hunts are planned as of now.^{iv} Such actions warrant an emergency listing to protect the species from dangerous reductions in population size that could lead to extinction. Additionally, the FWS delisting rule for the gray wolf in the Northern Rockies states that meaningful changes in state law or management objectives that increase the threat to the wolf population can lead to not only the reconsideration of listing but an emergency relisting at any point.

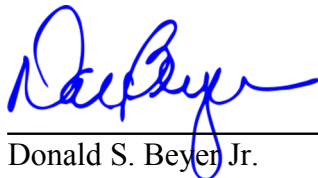
An emergency listing for gray wolves is also necessary given FWS's own response to petitions that there is substantial credible information that human-caused slaughter poses a threat to the species. FWS found that regulations in at least two states may be inadequate to address human threats posed to gray wolves.^v Further, more than 800 scientists have called on the Biden Administration to take immediate action crediting laws in various states that threaten gray wolves and ignore science. They state the laws in several states go against scientific literature on wolf biology management and could threaten recovery efforts.^{vi} Additionally, tribal leaders and representatives have also voiced their concerns regarding the danger facing gray wolves as they are sacred to many American Indian Tribes. They write that the decision to delist gray wolves without their consultation has eroded tribal sovereignty, and not only do they request an

emergency relisting for gray wolves, but to also be included in decisions that affect their cultures and traditions.^{vii}


Any emergency listing is temporary, lasting only 240 days. During that time, FWS will be able to continue its own evaluation and review that is already underway. We believe the facts on the ground support such a request and ask that you implement an emergency relisting of gray wolves.

We appreciate the work of the Administration thus far and look forward to the consideration of our request. We request a response back by Wednesday, December 22nd.

Sincerely,



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress
Chair, Committee on Natural
Resources



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress




Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress
Chair, Subcommittee on
Water, Oceans, and Wildlife



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress




Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



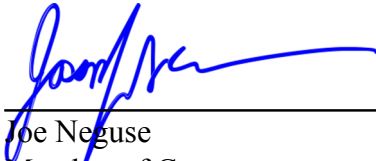
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



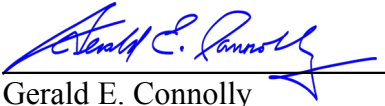
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



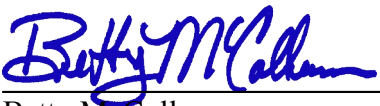
A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



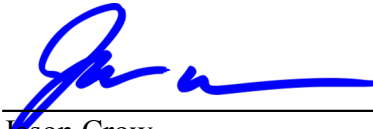
David E. Price
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



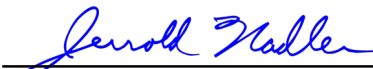
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



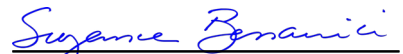
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress




Marie Newman
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



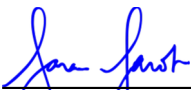
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



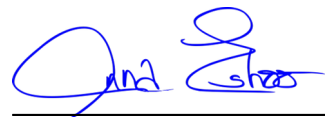
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



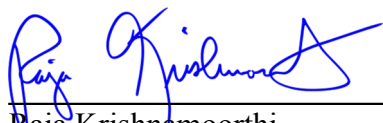
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



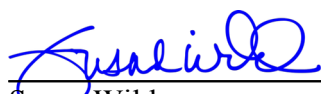
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



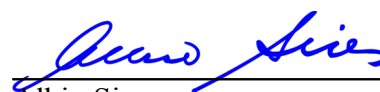
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress




Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



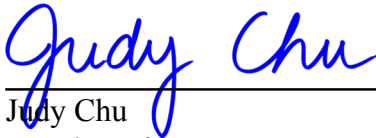
Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



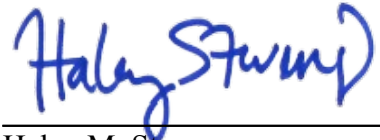
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress




Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



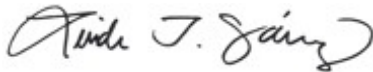
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



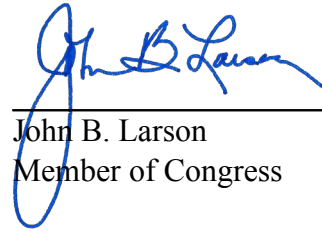
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



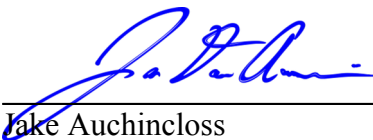
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



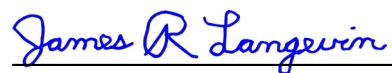
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



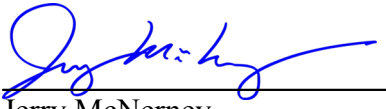
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry McNerney", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

- ⁱ Farquhar, B. (2021, June 30). *Wolf Reintroduction Changes Ecosystem in Yellowstone*. Yellowstone National Park Trips. <https://www.yellowstonepark.com/things-to-do/wildlife/wolf-reintroduction-changes-ecosystem/>
- ⁱⁱ Getz, W & Wilmers, C. (2005). Gray Wolves as Climate Change Buffers in Yellowstone. *PLOS Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.0030092>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Mahoney, P. et al. (2020). Denning phenology and reproductive success of wolves in response to climate signals. *Environmental Research Letters*. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/abc0ba>
- ^{iv} Kaeding, D. (2021, October 4). *DNR sets quota of 130 wolves for Wisconsin's fall wolf hunt*. Wisconsin Public Radio. <https://www.wpr.org/dnr-sets-quota-130-wolves-wisconsins-fall-wolf-hunt>
- ^v Budryk, Z. (2021, September 16). *Gray wolf may be relisted as endangered after Trump removed protections*. The Hill. <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/572555-fish-and-wildlife-service-to-review-trump-era-removal-of-gray-wolf>
- ^{vi} Dinerstein, E. et al. (2021, July 1). *Why We Should Act Now in Defense of Wolves*. Retrieved from: https://wildlifecoexistence.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Why-We-Should-Act-Now-in-Defense-of-Wolves_7.1.2021-updated-Dec-12.pdf
- ^{vii} Richmond, T. (2021, September 14). *US Tribes Demand Emergency Protections for Wolves*. ABC News. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/us-tribes-demand-emergency-protection-wolves-80014863>