



November 14, 2018

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sean Duffy
U.S. House of Representatives
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
U.S. House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McCarthy, Leader Pelosi, Congressman Duffy, and Congressman Peterson:

The Public Lands Council (PLC), the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), and the undersigned organizations would like to express our support for H.R. 6784, the Manage our Wolves Act. PLC is the only national organization dedicated solely to representing the roughly 22,000 ranchers who hold federal grazing permits and operate on federal lands. NCBA is the beef industry's largest and oldest national marketing and trade association, representing American cattlemen and women who provide much of the nation's supply of food and own or manage a large portion of America's private property. ASI has been the national trade organization representing the interests of nearly 90,000 sheep ranchers located throughout the country who produce America's lamb and wool since 1865. ASI is a federation of forty-five state sheep associations representing a diverse industry.

In 2011 and 2012 respectively, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under President Obama issued final rules to remove gray wolves in the Western Great Lakes (76 FR 81666) and Wyoming (77 FR 55530) from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This decision was informed by the best scientific and commercial data available, but activist litigants used the judicial system to circumvent sound science and restore full ESA protections to these predators. While listed under the ESA, wolves cannot be properly managed by state wildlife agencies, who best know how to balance healthy ecosystems with the needs of local communities and changing conditions on the ground.

Current and emerging science continues to find that wolf populations have been fully recovered, not only in Wyoming and the Western Great Lakes, but across the contiguous 48 states. For this reason, gray wolves should be removed from the List of Threatened and Endangered Species and fully returned to the purview of state agencies. To avoid the suppression of science through the court system, this action should also be exempted from judicial review.

We laud the bipartisan effort undertaken by this bill's sponsors and cosponsors. Strengthening rural communities, and the industries upon which they rely, transcends party and benefits all Americans.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our input on behalf of our members – the nation's food and fiber producers. We urge swift passage of the bipartisan H.R. 6784, the Manage our Wolves Act.

Sincerely,

Public Lands Council
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
American Sheep Industry Association
American National Cattlemen
Association of National Grasslands
California Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Wool Growers Association
Fall River/Big Valley Cattlemen's Association (California)
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Idaho Cattle Association
Idaho Wool Growers Association
Michigan Cattlemen's Association
Michigan State Sheep Producers
Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Association
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
Montana Stockgrowers Association
Montana Public Lands Council
Montana Wool Growers Association
Nebraska Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Sheep Growers Association
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association
South Dakota Sheep Producers Association
Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Utah Cattlemen's Association
Utah Wool Growers Association
Washington Cattlemen's Association
Washington State Sheep Producers
Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association
Wyoming Association of County Predatory Animal Boards
Wyoming Public Lands Coalition
Wyoming State Grazing Board
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association