



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  
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