

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 22nd, 2013

The Honorable Dan Ashe
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Ashe:

We understand the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is in the process of reviewing the Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery status of the gray wolf in the lower 48 States and is preparing to announce the delisting of the species. We support the nationwide delisting of wolves and urge you to move as quickly as possible on making this a reality. We were supportive of the USFWS decision in 2009 when most wolves were delisted in the Northern Rocky Mountains, again in 2011 when wolves in the Great Lake States were delisted, and the 2012 delisting in Wyoming. It is unfortunate that these decisions were met with lawsuits from environmental activists.

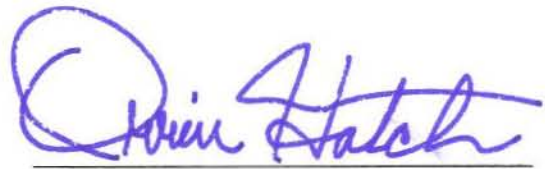
Wolves are not an endangered species and do not merit federal protections. The full delisting of the species and the return of the management of wolf populations to State governments is long overdue. As you know, State governments are fully qualified to responsibly manage wolf populations and are able to meet both the needs of local communities and wildlife populations.

Unmanaged wolves are devastating to livestock and indigenous wildlife. Currently State wildlife officials have their hands tied any time wolves are involved. They need to be able to respond to the needs of their native wildlife without being burdened by the impediments of the federal bureaucracy created by the ESA. During the four decades that wolves have had ESA protections, there has been an uncontrolled and unmanaged growth of wolf populations resulting in devastating impacts on hunting and ranching in America as well as tragic damages to historically strong and healthy herds of moose, elk, big horn sheep, and mule deer.

As you consider these much needed changes to federal protections with regard to the gray wolf, we urge you to expand the delisting of the species to all of the lower 48 states. It is critical that the states be given the ability to properly manage all of the species within their boundaries.


Sincerely,


Representative Cynthia Lummis


Senator Orrin Hatch

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Representative Doc Hastings


Senator John Barrasso

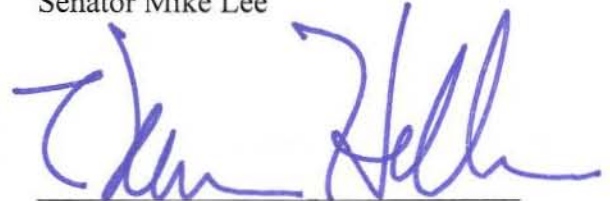

Representative Rob Bishop


Senator Heidi Heitkamp


Representative Steve Stivers



Senator Mike Lee


Representative Marsha Blackburn

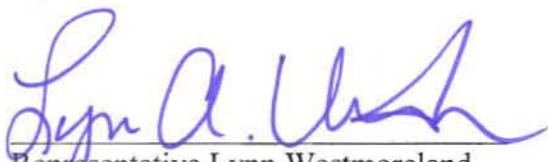

Senator Dean Heller


Representative Jeff Duncan


Senator Mike Enzi


Representative Jim Matheson


Senator John Thune

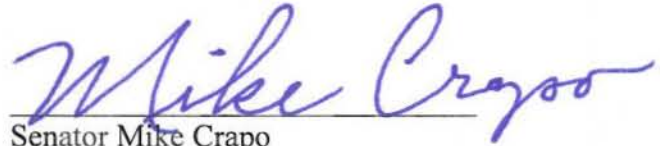

Representative Lynn Westmoreland


Senator Joe Manchin

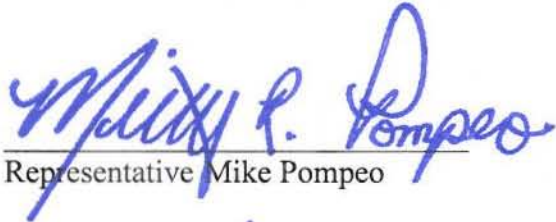
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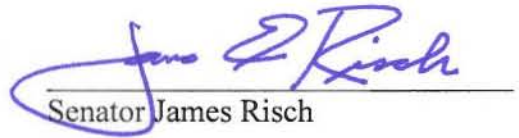
Representative Terri Sewell



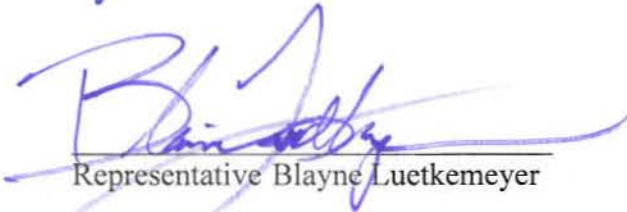
Senator Mike Crapo



Representative Mike Pompeo



Senator James Risch



Representative Blayne Luetkemeyer



Senator David Vitter



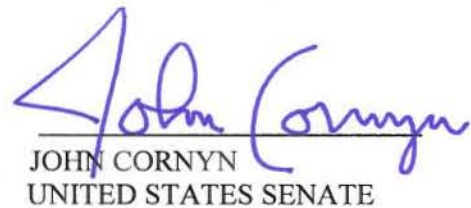
Representative Steve Southerland



Senator Lisa Murkowski



Representative Stephen Fincher

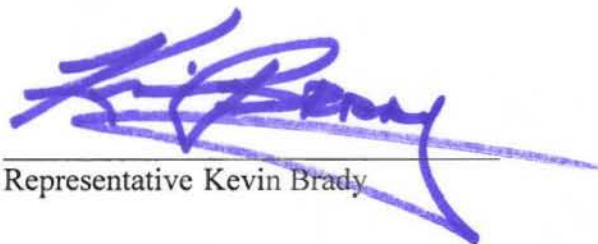


JOHN CORNYN
UNITED STATES SENATE

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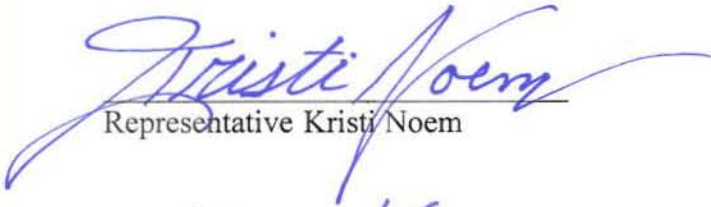


Representative Collin Peterson



Representative Kevin Brady

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Representative Kristi Noem



Representative Steve King



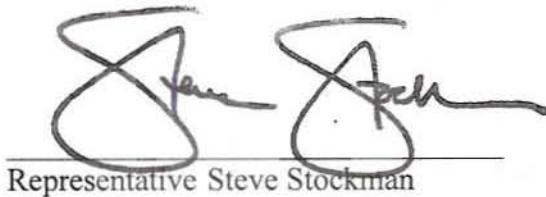
Representative Steve Scalise



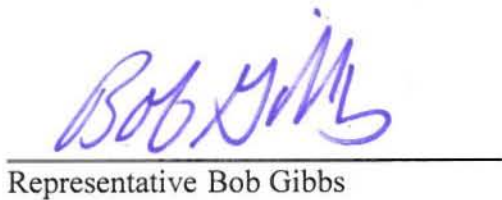
Representative Kevin Cramer



Representative Rob Wittman



Representative Steve Stockman



Representative Bob Gibbs

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Representative ~~Bill~~ Johnson

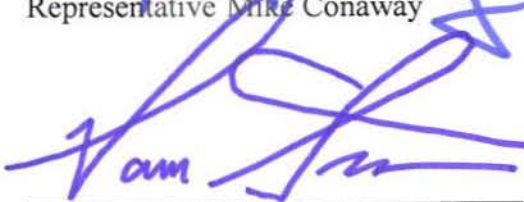

Representative Jason Chaffetz

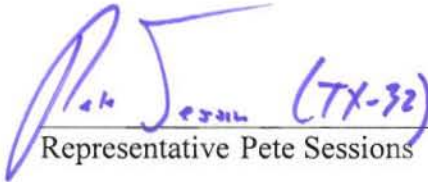

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Representative Steven Daines


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Representative Randy Neugebauer


Representative Dan Benishek

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Representative Candice Miller


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Representative Michele Bachmann


Representative Doug Lamalfa


Representative Reid Ribble


Representative Jim Renacci


Representative Mick Mulvaney

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Representative Ron DeSantis



Representative David Schweikert



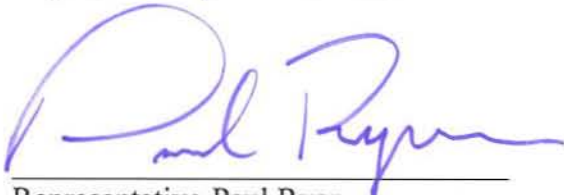
Representative John Kline



Representative Steve Palazzo



Representative Alan Nunnelee



Representative Paul Ryan



Representative Adrian Smith

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Representative Tom Cole



Representative Glenn Thompson



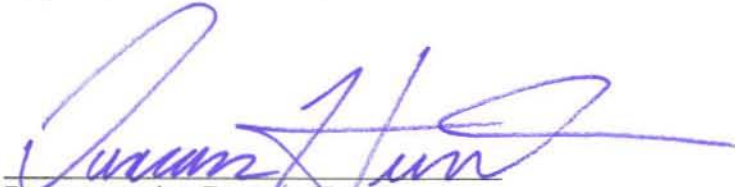
Representative Jeff Miller



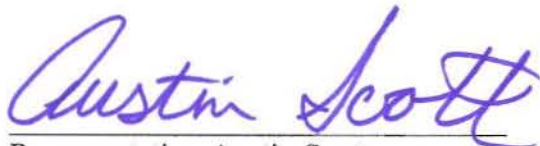
Representative Patrick McHenry



Representative Tim Walz

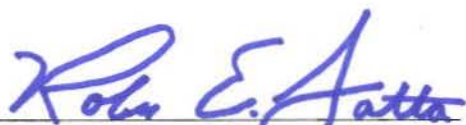


Representative Duncan Hunter

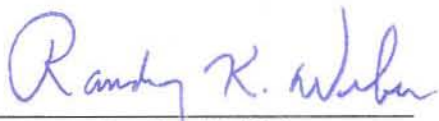


Representative Austin Scott

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Representative Bob Latta



Representative Randy Weber