

October 10, 2012

The Honorable Representative Frank Foster
Chair, House Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Berman Center for
Animal Care
900 N. Newburgh Rd.
Westland, MI 48185
734.721.7300

Dear Representative Foster and Honorable members of the Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee;

The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) is the state's largest animal welfare organization and also one of the largest in the nation. As a private nonprofit operating three busy animal care centers, three veterinary care centers, seven satellite adoption centers, and nationally-recognized cruelty investigation and emergency rescue teams in the metropolitan Detroit area, we assist tens of thousands of pets and wild animals annually. We hold a license from the MDNRE to rehabilitate injured and orphaned wildlife, and received 1,207 wild animals in the most recent fiscal year. MHS is not affiliated with any national humane organization, and is funded by private donations from more than 83,000 Michigan residents.

Detroit Center for
Animal Care
7401 Chrysler Dr.
Detroit, MI 48211
313.872.3400

We are writing at this time with regard to House Bill 5834, which would establish a hunting season on the Gray Wolf. Our leadership role in the state frequently finds us representing animal welfare groups on state committees for the MDNRE, MDARD, and other agencies. We had the opportunity to serve in 2006 on the Michigan Wolf Management Roundtable, and helped to forge a document to guide the MDNRE in developing a management plan for this majestic species in advance of its expected delisting under the Endangered Species Act. Now, post-delisting, we serve as members of the more recently-formed MDNRE Wolf Forum.

Rochester Hills
Center for Animal Care
3600 W. Auburn Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
248.852.7420

When we served as a member of the Roundtable, we worked collaboratively with other Roundtable stakeholder groups, including hunting groups, to craft recommendations that would allow the appropriate address of conflicts between wolves and humans, using non-lethal approaches first, whenever possible. We supported the use of lethal control of specific problem wolves or packs *only when non-lethal approaches have failed or human safety dictates*. The Roundtable further agreed that "setting numeric goals for wolf abundance at large geographic scales... would be inappropriate... and should be avoided."

Administration
30300 Telegraph Rd.
Suite 220
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
248.283.1000

The gray wolf was delisted only a few short months ago. Our constituents have a great interest in seeing the continued strong recovery of this elusive native canine. We ask you review and strongly consider the thoughtful recommendations of the Wolf Management Roundtable, especially those dealing with the non-lethal remedies to control the wolf population

1-866-MHUMANE
www.michiganhumane.org

Sincerely,



Linda Reider
Director of Statewide Initiatives
Michigan Humane Society

Cc: Honorable Representative Matt Huuki
Bill Zaagman, GCSI; MHS Lobbyist