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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to SB 1013. My name is Jill Fritz and I am the Michigan state director for The Humane Society of the United States. We have more than 11 million members and constituents nationwide, including more than 360,000 in Michigan.

Moose were nearly extirpated in Michigan and their recovery in recent decades is a success story. After a century of protection and considerable reintroduction efforts, the moose population remains at about 50% of a 10-year-old goal of 1,000 in the Upper Peninsula.

With a mere 500 to 600 moose in the entire state, there is simply no reason to initiate this hunting season. In fact, the long-term survival of the species remains in question.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recently reported that the population of moose in the state is declining. According to a recent story in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*:

> Reasons for the decline are uncertain, but researchers continue to believe a warming climate is responsible. Minnesota, already at the southern fringe of the moose range, apparently is becoming inhospitable for the large animals. Moose are extremely heat-sensitive, and temperature readings in Ely show over the past 48 years, average summer and winter temperatures have increased substantially.

The Minnesota moose advisory group last year recommended several criteria for closing either some moose hunting permit areas or the entire season. There are an estimated 5,500 moose in northeastern Minnesota alone – ten times more than all of Michigan.

The way we manage wildlife in this country is supposed to set limits through restricting activities as a means of protecting wildlife. The conservation model commands thorough consideration in the killing of wildlife based on the principle that wildlife belongs to all citizens held in trust by government.

As participation in hunting continues to decline and the gap between hunters and non-hunters widens, it becomes increasingly important that hunters carefully consider their actions in context of the general public's changing perception of their activities. The general public will not tolerate hunting viewed as unfair, unsporting, inhumane, or unnecessary.

Wildlife watchers alone outnumber hunters by nearly four to one in the state, representing nearly forty percent of state residents. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in 2006 in Michigan, wildlife watchers contributed nearly two times as much to the state economy as hunters through their activities, at $1,622,521 compared to $915,884.[1] Even the DNRE's own website promotes moose first and foremost as a tourist attraction in Van Riper and Tahquamenon Falls state parks. Moose just may be worth more to Michigan alive than dead on a trophy hunter's wall. Thank you.

[1] United States Fish and Wildlife Service. National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Related Recreation. 2006.