

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 219

Reps. Markkanen, Eisen, LaFave, Howell, Borton, Beeler, Allor, VanSingel, Steven Johnson and Reilly offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the Wolf Management Advisory Council and
2 the Natural Resources Commission to authorize, and the Department
3 of Natural Resources to organize, wolf hunting and trapping as part
4 of the state's wolf management efforts beginning in 2022.

5 Whereas, Gray wolves in Michigan have been protected under the
6 federal Endangered Species Act since 1974. At that time, gray
7 wolves were in danger of going extinct and needed the special
8 protection provided by the act to aid their recovery; and

9 Whereas, The federal government removed the gray wolf from the
10 federal endangered species list effective January 4, 2021. Gray
11 wolves have made a remarkable recovery from near extinction.

1 Michigan's current gray wolf population of almost 700 wolves
2 exceeds by over three times the number of wolves biologists
3 consider necessary to maintain a healthy population in the state.
4 Michigan's wolf population has met all federal recovery goals for
5 delisting both in terms of number of wolves and the stability of
6 those numbers for many years; and

7 Whereas, The state of Michigan is now responsible for managing
8 its gray wolf population, and Department of Natural Resources'
9 officials stated as recently as the summer of 2020 that their
10 survey results show that Michigan's wolf population has recovered.
11 Wolves in Michigan achieved the minimum sustainable population goal
12 of 200 wolves for five consecutive years in 2004 and have since
13 surpassed state and federal population recovery goals for nearly 20
14 years; and

15 Whereas, Managed hunting and trapping in the state is a viable
16 means of ensuring stable wolf population numbers. Management allows
17 the wolf population to be kept at levels that ensure the overall
18 survival of the animal but limit potential wolf and human
19 conflicts; and

20 Whereas, Michigan has an active and legitimate wolf management
21 plan in place that was updated in 2015. While we commend the
22 department for beginning the process of updating this plan again
23 and commend the Natural Resources Commission for setting a plan
24 update deadline of the end of 2021, there is no statutory
25 requirement or precedent to delay a 2022 wolf hunt while the plan
26 is reviewed and updated. Neither is there a requirement for a
27 statewide public attitude survey or study to occur prior to a
28 hunting season; and

29 Whereas, The law is clear that the commission should, to the

1 greatest extent practicable, utilize principles of sound scientific
2 management in making decisions regarding the taking of game; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
5 Wolf Management Advisory Council and the Natural Resources
6 Commission to authorize, and the Department of Natural Resources to
7 organize, wolf hunting and trapping as part of the state's wolf
8 management efforts beginning in 2022; and be it further

9 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
10 members of the Natural Resources Commission and the Wolf Management
11 Advisory Council and the Director of the Department of Natural
12 Resources.