

March 21, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
The House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman,

Gray wolf populations have met recovery criteria for over 20 years and are an Endangered Species Act success story, a fact recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the course of multiple presidential administrations. Wolves have greatly expanded their numbers and range in their primary habitat. Their recovery has impelled the Service's repeated efforts to remove gray wolves from the ESA lists, and therefore to free up resources for conservation of far more vulnerable listed species.

The best available science supports the delisting of the gray wolf and returning their management to state wildlife management agencies, which have proved time and again that they are fully capable of conserving stable and robust wolf populations.

The gray wolf was rightly delisted throughout much of the United States in 2020, but a federal judge in California overturned this decision. All defendants, including the United States government and Safari Club International appealed the district court's decision. That appeal is currently pending the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's gray wolf status assessment, which will likely lead to yet another attempt to delist the species.

Safari Club International strongly supports the "Trust the Science Act" introduced by Representative Lauren Boebert of Colorado. This act will reissue the final rule removing the gray wolf from the Endangered Species List and return management authority to state wildlife agencies.

The Endangered Species Act has been abused for decades, and the eternal listing of the gray wolf is just one example of how the federal government and courts have failed to effectively administer the Act. It is now time to devote federal resources to species that need protections and allow state wildlife agencies to successfully manage their wolf populations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Laird Hamberlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

W. Laird Hamberlin
CEO, SCI & SCIF