

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 16, 2011

Public Comments Processing
Attn: Docket NO. [FWS-R3-ES-2011-0029]
Division of Policy and Directives Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM
Arlington, VA 22203

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the residents of the First District of Michigan, I thank the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for holding a public information meeting in Marquette tonight. I would like to express my sincere regret that I could not make the meeting in person. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives is in session, and I must be present to vote.

Since taking office in January, I have been contacted by a number of residents of the First District frustrated with the gray wolf. Time and again, I am contacted by farmers and families who have lost valuable property and beloved pets at the expense of the wolf. Families are hesitant to allow their children to walk to the bus alone, fearing attack by the wolf.

As an avid outdoorsman and sportsman, I support removing the gray wolf from the endangered species list. In my view, individual states will be better equipped to handle wolf management now that scientific evidence has proven that the wolf population has achieved recovery. In response to my constituents' requests, I have cosponsored a number of pieces of legislation that would delist the gray wolf.

While I understand there is some evidence that the eastern wolf is actually a distinct species and not a subspecies of the gray wolf, it is my hope that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will quickly move forward with delisting the gray wolf (*canis lupus*). I would like to thank the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their support on this issue, and I look forward to a productive final rule prior to the end of 2011.

Sincerely,



Dan Benishek M.D.
Member of Congress
Michigan's First District