



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

4/8/2024

Dear President Biden:

We are writing to respectfully urge you to reconsider the recent decision to repeal Trump-era rules made under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). While we understand the importance of addressing the protection of truly vulnerable species and safeguarding our natural world, we are concerned that these changes may have unintended consequences, particularly for the sturgeon population in the Lake Winnebago region of Wisconsin and the whitetail population in northern Wisconsin.

As you may know, the lake sturgeon population in the Lake Winnebago region is scientifically healthy and remains crucial to the Wisconsin economy. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has done an impeccable job managing the species, being the gold standard for the country. The sturgeon spearing season in February on Lake Winnebago is a cherished tradition for many Wisconsinites, deeply rooted in our cultural heritage. Additionally, the healthy wolf population in our state has decimated deer herd numbers in Wisconsin's north woods, negatively affecting tourism and our local economies.

We are continuing efforts to delist the gray wolf in Wisconsin so we can manage the population like every other species. We want to keep lake sturgeon off of the endangered species list to protect the species and to continue to manage them successfully. We don't want them entirely off the landscape, we just want there to be a sustainable balance. If lake sturgeon are listed as endangered, the population will suffer as management numbers ensure there is enough food for the sturgeon and an overpopulation could potentially lead to stunted fish. This would be catastrophic for the Wisconsin economy to lose this tradition.

The same goes for the state's deer population, particularly in the north woods. The wolves are decimating the deer population, leaving many areas as deer deserts with few to be found. If there are too many wolves and not enough deer, that will continue to be a negative hit to our ecosystem and economy. Wolves should be managed so there is a balance. The food supply is limited and human and livestock interaction with wolves are increasing. If the sturgeon spearing and deer hunting licenses decrease or cease to exist, funds for conservation efforts will substantially decrease, affecting revenue at the state and federal levels.

Additionally, sturgeon and whitetail deer contribute significantly to the state's economy through tourism and recreational activities. We are troubled by the provision that agencies cannot

consider the economic impact of listing certain species as threatened or endangered in addition to the scientific health of the species. Again, we respectfully ask you to reconsider the decision to repeal Trump-era rules made under the Endangered Species Act, while at the same time, let's continue to work together to push strong conservation efforts around the country.

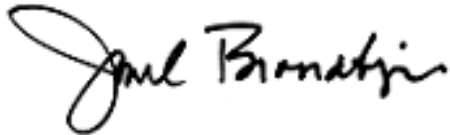
Sincerely,



Rep. Ty Bodden
59th Assembly District



Rep. David Armstrong
75th Assembly District



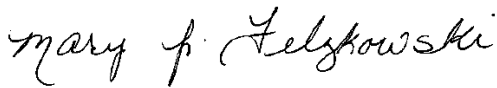
Rep. Janel Brandtjen
22nd Assembly District



Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara
19th Senate District



Rep. Barbara Dittrich
38th Assembly District



Sen. Mary Felzkowski
12th Senate District



Rep. Joy Goeben
5th Assembly District



Rep. Chanz Green
74th Assembly District



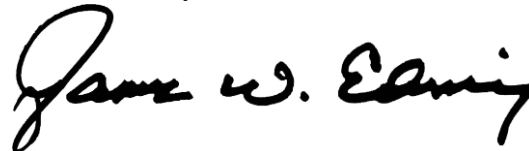
Rep. Elijah Behnke
89th Assembly District



Rep. Robert Brooks
60th Assembly District



Rep. Calvin Callahan
35th Assembly District



Rep. James Edming
87th Assembly District



Sen. Dan Feyen
18th Senate District



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69th Assembly District



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73rd Assembly District



Rep. Peter Schmidt
6th Assembly District



Rep. Michael Schraa
53rd Assembly District



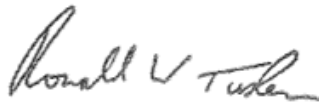
Rep. Rob Summerfield
67th Assembly District



Rep. Paul Tittel
25th Assembly District



Sen. Cory Tomczyk
29th Senate District



Rep. Ron Tusler
3rd Assembly District



Rep. Chuck Wichgers
82nd Assembly District



Sen. Eric Wimberger
30th Senate District

CC: Secretary Deb Haaland
Senator Ron Johnson
Senator Tammy Baldwin