



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

February 24, 2015

The Honorable Reid Ribble  
333 West College Avenue  
Appleton, WI 54911

Dear Congressman Ribble,

We the undersigned members of the Wisconsin State Legislature write to you in strong support of your efforts to remove gray wolves in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Wyoming from the Federal Endangered Species List.

Such an action is a reasonable response to recent rulings by two federal judges, which resulted in the relisting of wolves in the western Great Lakes region and Wyoming.

We applaud your goal of allowing these states to effectively manage their wolf populations without weakening key components of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or discounting the authority of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The gray wolf has made a successful comeback in Wisconsin thanks to the efforts of our Department of Natural Resources (DNR) working in conjunction with the USFWS under the authority of the ESA.

It is unacceptable, however, that the ESA, as currently written, continues to make regional species delisting virtually impossible. This fatal flaw in the ESA is the basis on which a federal judge has ruled that Wisconsin does not have the right to manage its wolf population until the gray wolf has fully recovered in its full historic range in 29 Eastern and Central states.

The Wisconsin DNR has invested significant time and resources to develop a sound wolf management plan aimed at ensuring a healthy and thriving wolf population that can exist in balance with the human environment.

Without the ability to effectively manage the state's wolf population, the number of wolves in Wisconsin will grow, and we will once again find ourselves facing increased conflicts between humans and wolves. You may recall that prior to the 2012 delisting of the gray wolf in Wisconsin, such conflicts were reaching intolerable levels in Northern Wisconsin.

Livestock depredation linked to wolves has a significant economic impact, particularly for smaller farm operations in Northern Wisconsin. With no ability to manage wolf numbers, we will see greater cattle losses and economic damages for Wisconsin farmers. Further, a growing wolf population will put increased pressure

on our already struggling northern deer herd. Additional strain on the deer herd will have far reaching social and economic impacts, statewide.

It is clear that the time for action is now. We welcome and strongly support your efforts to return management of the gray wolf population to Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Wyoming.

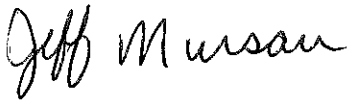
Sincerely,



**Al Ott**  
State Representative  
3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
Chair, Assembly Committee on  
Natural Resources & Sporting Heritage



**Tom Tiffany**  
State Senator  
12<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Chair, Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage,  
Mining & Forestry



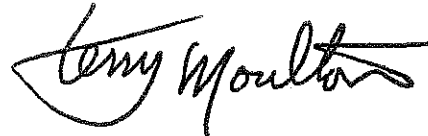
**Jeff Mursau**  
State Representative  
36<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Environment  
& Forestry



**Robert Cowles**  
State Senator  
2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District  
Chair, Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
Natural Resources & Energy



**Lee Nerison**  
State Representative  
96<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Agriculture



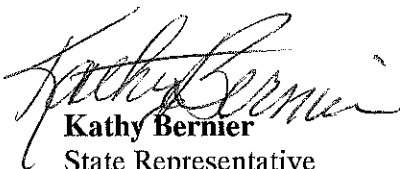
**Terry Moulton**  
State Senator  
23<sup>rd</sup> Senate District  
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small  
Business & Tourism



**Joan Ballweg**  
State Representative  
41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



**Rick Gudex**  
State Senator  
18<sup>th</sup> Senate District



**Kathy Bernier**  
State Representative  
68<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Sheila Harsdorf**  
State Senator  
10<sup>th</sup> Senate District



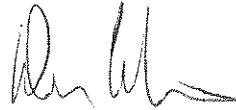
**Mark Born**  
State Representative  
39<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



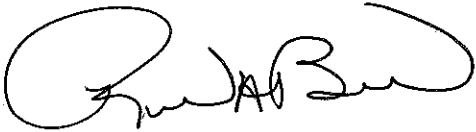
**Frank Lasee**  
State Senator  
1<sup>st</sup> Senate District



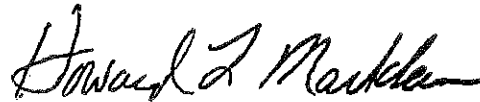
**Ed Brooks**  
State Representative  
50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



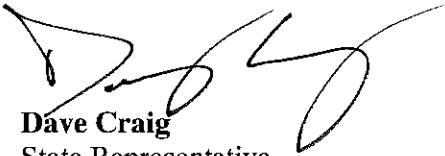
**Devin LeMahieu**  
State Senator  
9<sup>th</sup> Senate District



**Robert Brooks**  
State Representative  
60<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



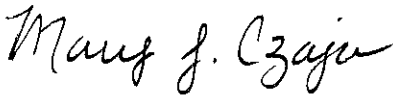
**Howard Marklein**  
State Senator  
17<sup>th</sup> Senate District



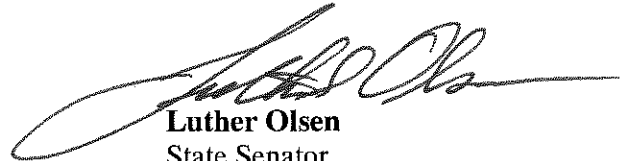
**Dave Craig**  
State Representative  
83<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



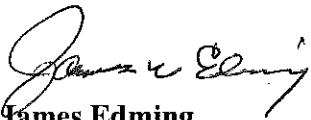
**Stephen Nass**  
State Senator  
11<sup>th</sup> Senate District



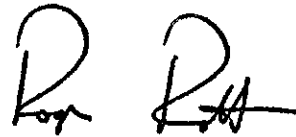
**Mary Czaja**  
State Representative  
35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Luther Olsen**  
State Senator  
14<sup>th</sup> Senate District



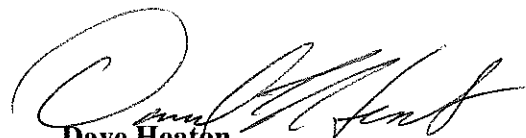
**James Edming**  
State Representative  
87<sup>th</sup> Assembly District




**Roger Roth**  
State Senator  
19<sup>th</sup> Senate District



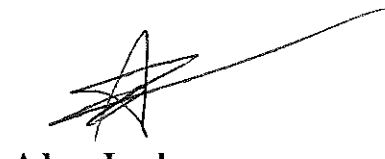
**Bob Gannon**  
State Representative  
58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District




**Dave Heaton**  
State Representative  
85<sup>th</sup> Assembly District




**Andre Jacque**  
State Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



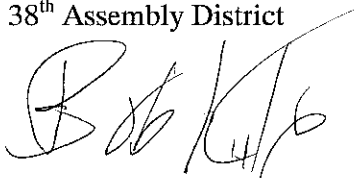
**Adam Jarchow**  
State Representative  
28<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



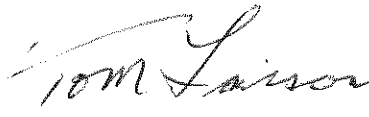
**Joel Kleefisch**  
State Representative  
38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District




**Scott Krug**  
State Representative  
72<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



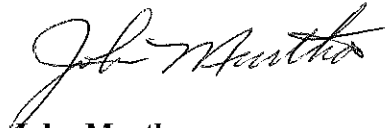
**Bob Kulp**  
State Representative  
69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



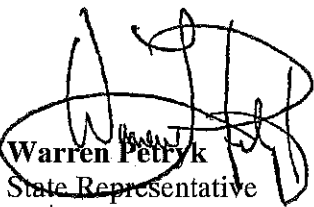
**Tom Larson**  
State Representative  
67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



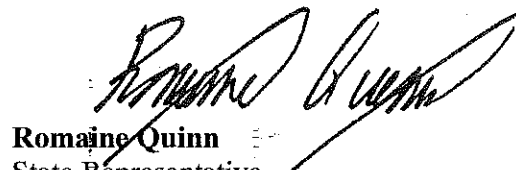
**John Macco**  
State Representative  
88<sup>th</sup> Assembly District




**John Murtha**  
State Representative  
29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District




**Warren Petryk**  
State Representative  
93<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



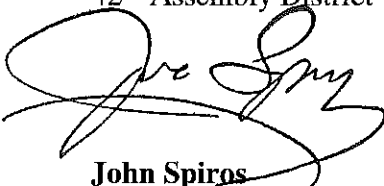
**Romaine Quinn**  
State Representative  
75<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



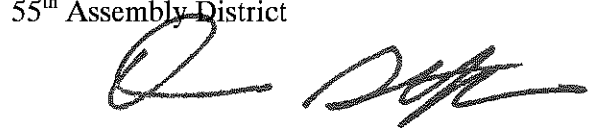
**Keith Ripp**  
State Representative  
42<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



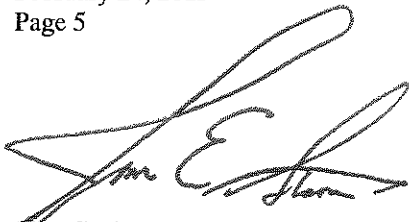
**Mike Rohrkaste**  
State Representative  
55<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**John Spiros**  
State Representative  
86<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



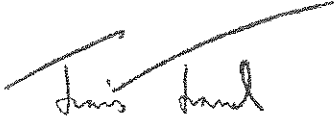
**David Steffen**  
State Representative  
4<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



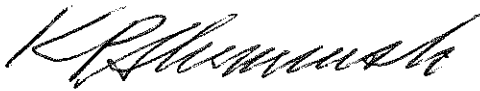
**Jim Steineke**  
State Representative  
5<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



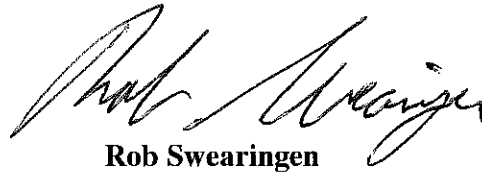
**Gary Tauchen**  
State Representative  
6<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Travis Tranel**  
State Representative  
49<sup>th</sup> Assembly District




**Ken Skowronski**  
State Representative  
82<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



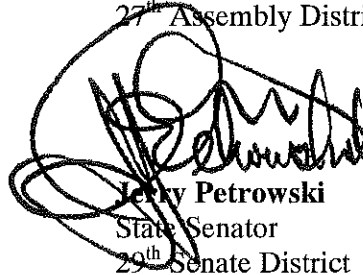
**Rob Swearingen**  
State Representative  
34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Paul Tittel**  
State Representative  
25<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Tyler Vorpapel**  
State Representative  
27<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Jerry Petrowski**  
State Senator  
29<sup>th</sup> Senate District

cc: Wisconsin Congressional Delegation