

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

The Honorable Dan Ashe  
Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Ashe:

We understand the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is in the process of reviewing the Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery status of the gray wolf in the lower 48 States and is preparing to announce the delisting of the species. We support the nationwide delisting of wolves and urge you to move as quickly as possible on making this a reality. We were supportive of the USFWS decision in 2009 when most wolves were delisted in the Northern Rocky Mountains, again in 2011 when wolves in the Great Lake States were delisted, and the 2012 delisting in Wyoming. It is unfortunate that these decisions were met with lawsuits from environmental activists.

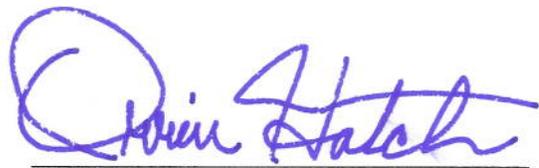
Wolves are not an endangered species and do not merit federal protections. The full delisting of the species and the return of the management of wolf populations to State governments is long overdue. As you know, State governments are fully qualified to responsibly manage wolf populations and are able to meet both the needs of local communities and wildlife populations.

Unmanaged wolves are devastating to livestock and indigenous wildlife. Currently State wildlife officials have their hands tied any time wolves are involved. They need to be able to respond to the needs of their native wildlife without being burdened by the impediments of the federal bureaucracy created by the ESA. During the four decades that wolves have had ESA protections, there has been an uncontrolled and unmanaged growth of wolf populations resulting in devastating impacts on hunting and ranching in America as well as tragic damages to historically strong and healthy herds of moose, elk, big horn sheep, and mule deer.

As you consider these much needed changes to federal protections with regard to the gray wolf, we urge you to expand the delisting of the species to all of the lower 48 states. It is critical that the states be given the ability to properly manage all of the species within their boundaries.

Sincerely,

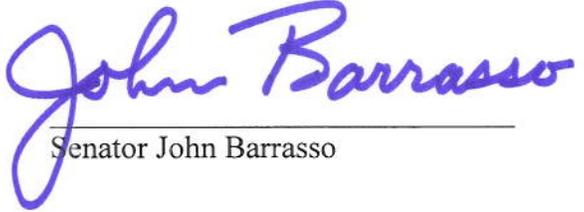
  
Representative Cynthia Lummis

  
Senator Orrin Hatch



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Representative Doc Hastings



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Senator John Barrasso



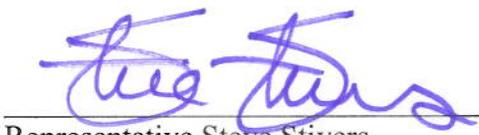
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Representative Rob Bishop



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Senator Heidi Heitkamp



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Representative Steve Stivers



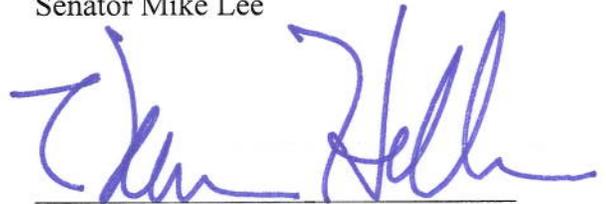
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Senator Mike Lee



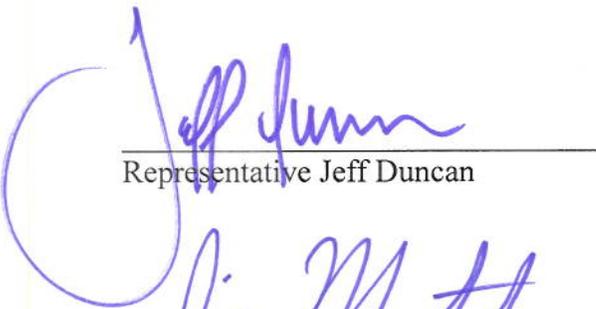
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Representative Marsha Blackburn



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Senator Dean Heller



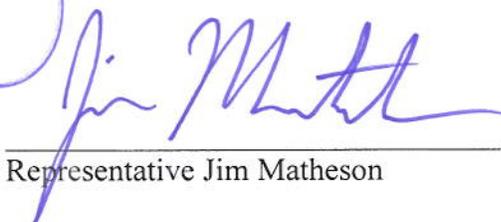
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Representative Jeff Duncan



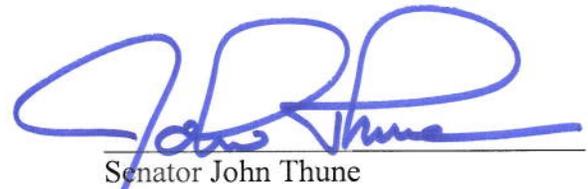
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Senator Mike Enzi



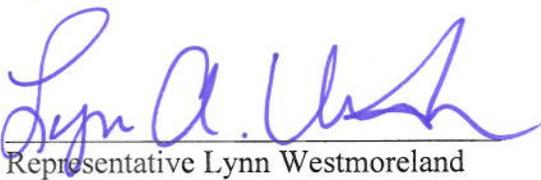
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Representative Jim Matheson



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Senator John Thune



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Representative Lynn Westmoreland

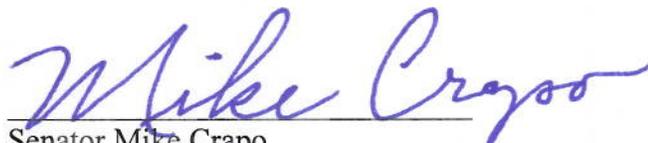


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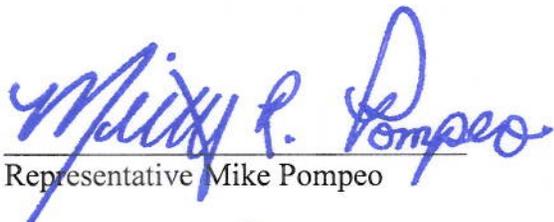
Senator Joe Manchin



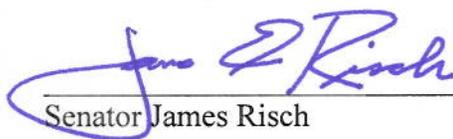
Representative Terri Sewell



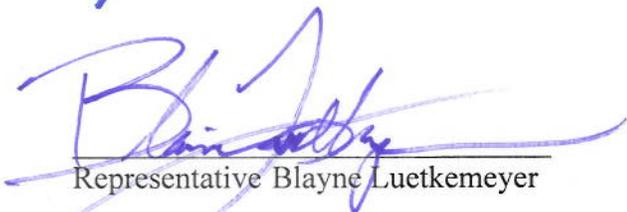
Senator Mike Crapo



Representative Mike Pompeo



Senator James Risch



Representative Blayne Luetkemeyer



Senator David Vitter



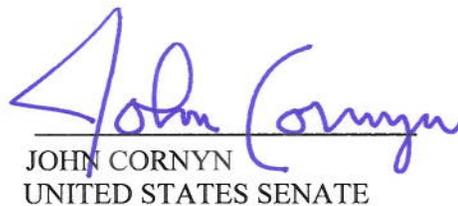
Representative Steve Southerland



Senator Lisa Murkowski



Representative Stephen Fincher

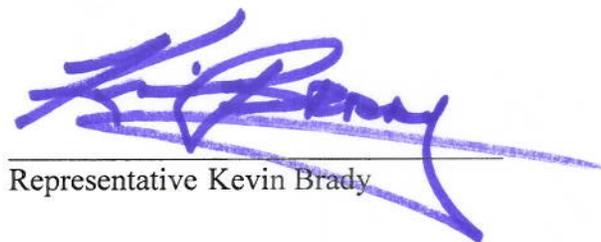


JOHN CORNYN  
UNITED STATES SENATE

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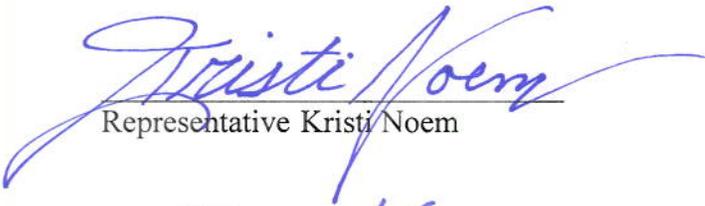


Representative Collin Peterson



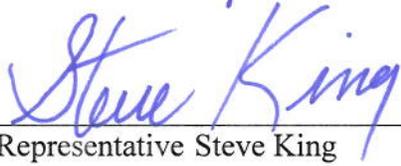
Representative Kevin Brady

The Honorable Dan Ashe  
Page Four  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013



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Representative Kristi Noem



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Representative Steve King



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Representative Steve Scalise



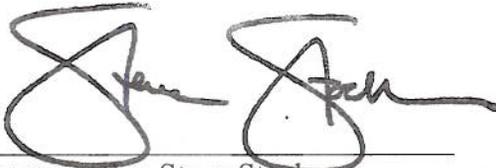
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Representative Kevin Cramer



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Representative Rob Wittman



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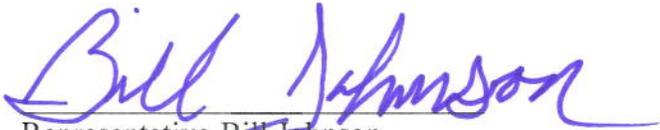
Representative Steve Stockman



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Representative Bob Gibbs

The Honorable Dan Ashe  
Page Five  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

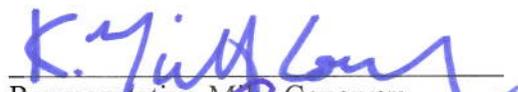
  
Representative ~~Bill~~ Johnson

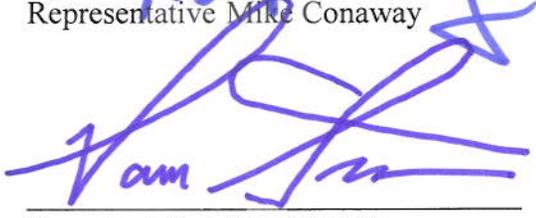
  
Representative Jason Chaffetz

  
Representative Chris Stewart

  
Representative Kenny Marchant

  
Representative Howard Coble

  
Representative Mike Conaway

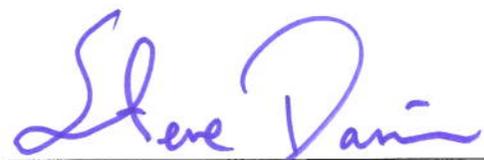
  
Representative Sam Graves

The Honorable Dan Ashe  
Page Six  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

  
Representative Pete Sessions

  
Representative Marlin Stutzman

  
Representative Dennis Ross

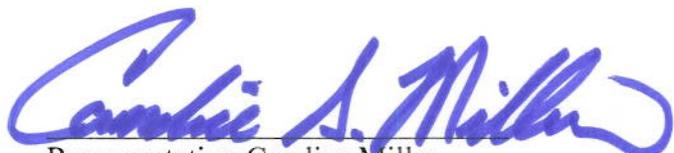
  
Representative Steven Daines

  
Representative Bill Huizenga

  
Representative Randy Neugebauer

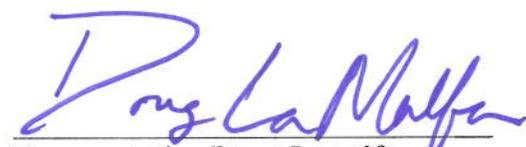
  
Representative Dan Benishek

The Honorable Dan Ashe  
Page Seven  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

  
Representative Candice Miller

  
Representative Don Young

  
Representative Michele Bachmann

  
Representative Doug Lamalfa

  
Representative Reid Ribble

  
Representative Jim Renacci

  
Representative Mick Mulvaney

The Honorable Dan Ashe  
Page Eight  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013



Representative Ron DeSantis



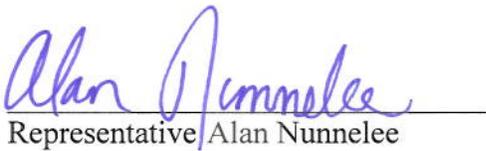
Representative David Schweikert



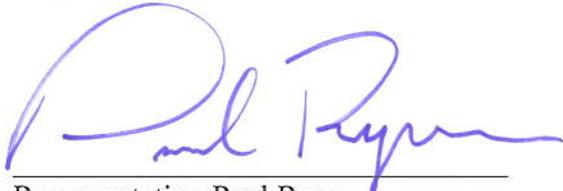
Representative John Kline



Representative Steve Palazzo



Representative Alan Nunnelee



Representative Paul Ryan



Representative Adrian Smith

The Honorable Dan Ashe  
Page Nine  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013



Representative Tom Cole



Representative Glenn Thompson



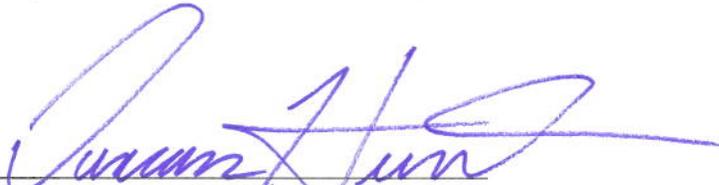
Representative Jeff Miller



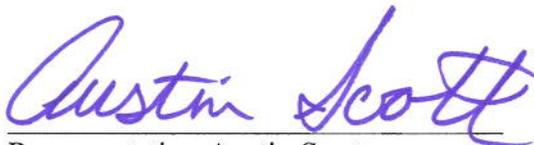
Representative Patrick McHenry



Representative Tim Walz



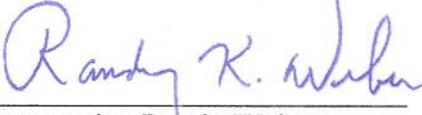
Representative Duncan Hunter



Representative Austin Scott

The Honorable Dan Ashe  
Page Ten  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

  
Representative Bob Latta

  
Representative Randy Weber