



# Keep Michigan Wolves Protected

VOTE NO! ON PROPOSALS 1 & 2

## About Wolves

*Wolves have been protected in Michigan for almost 50 years, after being hunted to the brink of extinction. Even after four decades of protection, there are fewer than 650 wolves in the entire state. However, despite the population's fragile status, some Michigan politicians have rushed to open a trophy hunting season for wolves—opening the door for the same practices that virtually wiped out the wolf population in the first place.*

### **A TROPHY HUNT IS A CRUEL AND UNNECESSARY.**

Farmers, ranchers and other landowners in Michigan are already allowed to kill wolves to protect their livestock or dogs. Though cases of wolves killing livestock are rare, state law gives property owners the legal authority to protect their livestock. Ranchers are compensated for any livestock losses from wolves. Indiscriminate wolf hunting and trapping would accomplish nothing and would not solve the rare conflicts between property owners and wolves.

### **NO ONE EATS WOLVES. HUNTING AND TRAPPING WOLVES WOULD BE ALL ABOUT TROPHIES—PLAIN AND SIMPLE.**

People do not hunt wolves for food. Allowing the recreational hunting and trapping of wolves is just an attempt by politicians to cater to special interest groups who want a wolf trophy displayed in their living room. We Michiganders value our wolves and do not want to see them slaughtered for pointless trophies.

### **A TROPHY HUNTING SEASON MAY SUBJECT WOLVES TO EXTREMELY CRUEL, UNSPORTING PRACTICES.**

Wolves are often killed using the cruelest and most unsporting methods, including shooting them over bait and using painful steel-jawed leghold traps or snares, in which animals can suffer for hours or even days before being shot or bludgeoned to death. Due to intense public scrutiny and political pressure, the Michigan Natural Resources Commission changed the rules for the 2013 wolf hunt to exclude trapping. However, there is no reason to believe that if this hunt were to continue trapping would not be reinstated.

### **THE PUBLIC IS SAFE.**

There has never been a recorded wolf attack on a human in Michigan. Wolves are afraid of people and do all they can to avoid them. We should not let irrational fear of wolves drive the trophy hunting and trapping of these majestic creatures.

### **WOLVES ARE AN INVALUABLE PART OF MICHIGAN'S ECOSYSTEM.**

The Upper Peninsula is a special place—nature at its best. Natural predators like wolves play a significant role in the Upper Peninsula ecosystem by reducing densities of deer, beavers, and other species. Their presence can bring benefits to agriculture, public safety, water quality, and ecosystem health.



### **THERE IS NO SOUND SCIENCE TO JUSTIFY ANY WOLF HUNT.**

Michigan is fortunate to be home to two of the world's most renowned wolf experts, Drs. Rolf Peterson and John Vucetich, who have both submitted detailed scientific reports debunking the justification for a wolf hunt. Unfortunately, politicians and the Natural Resources Commission (a seven-member body of political appointees) recklessly discounted those reports and instead focused on misinformation, myths, fear-mongering, and hysteria. Proponents of a wolf hunt have yet to produce any scientific evidence to support it.

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