



# Keep Michigan Wolves Protected

## VOTE NO! ON PROPOSALS 1 & 2

### AN EGREGIOUS POWER GRAB

*In March of 2013, Keep Michigan Wolves Protected submitted over 250,000 signatures to the Secretary of State to refer a recently-passed law designating the wolf as a game species to a vote of the people. Though this effort was successful and that law was placed on hold pending the November 2014 vote, the legislature, backed by powerful trophy hunting lobbying groups, contemptuously moved to silence the voters. Just two weeks after those signatures were submitted, the legislature introduced and quickly passed a second law, allowing the unelected Natural Resources Commission to name almost any animal to the list of game species without any voter oversight. Not long after that new law took effect, the Natural Resources Commission named the wolf a game species once again, circumventing the citizen vote. But we are fighting back.*

### NO MORE CHECKS AND BALANCES

The power granted to the unelected Natural Resources Commission (NRC) was previously held only by the legislature, and as such, voters had a voice to make change. Michiganders had the right to lobby the legislature, lobby the Governor and, if the law still passed, the voters had the right to fix that mistake by conducting a referendum petition and referring the law to a vote of the people. Unfortunately, since the legislature granted the NRC the power to designate a species as game, Michigan voters are unable to reverse that decision because it is an act of a regulatory body and not the legislature. This was an appalling move to subvert a democratic process that Michiganders have long held to voice their opinion on wildlife management.

### “SCIENTIFIC WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT”?

Authorizing the NRC to list animals as game species will not contribute to a more thorough scientific analysis of wildlife management. None of the seven politically-appointed commissioners have an advanced degree in wildlife management. Instead of relying on input from two of Michigan’s world-renowned wolf experts, both of whom oppose hunting wolves in Michigan, the NRC instead solicited input from big game/trophy hunting organizations like Safari Club International and Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association to promote a proposal to begin the trophy hunting of wolves. The NRC also relies on testimony from the “experts” with the state’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR), but even that has been called into question. For example, DNR Furbearer Specialist Adam Bump has admitted to fabricating a terrifying tale during a radio interview about wolves staring at homeowners through their sliding glass doors and exhibiting no fear. The bottom line is that **the Natural Resources Commission is a political body, not a scientific one.**

### VOTER DESERVE A VOICE FOR WILDLIFE IN MICHIGAN

Michigan voters deserve to have a voice in how our wildlife is managed. We can’t rely on politicians and bureaucrats to make decisions without voter oversight. We need checks and balances to ensure that our wildlife, which is held in the public trust, will be managed with the best available science.

Fortunately, Keep Michigan Wolves Protected is working toward restoring those checks and balances: In the spring of 2014, we successfully placed a referendum of that second law on the ballot, too. So this November there will be two issues before voters **Proposal 1**, asking if the wolf should be named a game species, and **Proposal 2**, asking if the NRC should have the power to name any animal, including the wolf, to the list of game species. We must vote **NO** on both Proposals to restore protections to wolves and the rights of voters to have a meaningful say on wildlife issues.



**Remember: Vote NO on Proposals 1 and 2 this November!**

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