

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 20, 2010

The Honorable Rowan Gould
Acting Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
4401 N. Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Acting Director Gould,

We are writing to urge your prompt action in reviewing the Endangered Species Act status of the gray wolf in Minnesota. Since 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has twice delisted the gray wolf from the Endangered Species List and then added it back to the list due to legal challenges. We request that you assess the population of the Minnesota gray wolf and remove the species from the Endangered Species List if the population has recovered.

The Endangered Species Act is a valuable and powerful tool for protecting our country's most vulnerable species. In the case of the gray wolf in Minnesota, it has been extremely successful. There was a time when the gray wolf population was almost extinct in our state and in need of federal protection, but thanks to protection under the Endangered Species Act, the population has recovered dramatically. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources estimates a current gray wolf population of 3,000, more than double the minimum population of 1,600 identified for species stability under the Endangered Species List.

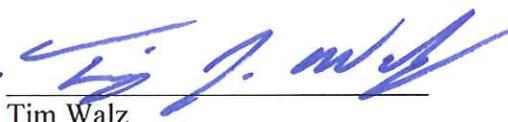
The successful recovery of the gray wolf population in Minnesota indicates that it would be appropriate to delist the gray wolf and turn over management of the species to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR has a comprehensive plan in place to ensure that the wolf population continues to thrive and does not fall below the 1,600 population threshold. In these times of soaring deficits and budget shortfalls, we need to ensure that federal resources are focused on protecting the most vulnerable species. We understand that the Fish and Wildlife Service is examining the possible presence of multiple species of gray wolf in Minnesota. We urge you to make this determination quickly and delist the gray wolf if found appropriate.

We thank you for your attention to this important issue for the state of Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Al Franken
United States Senator



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Michele Bachmann
Member of Congress



John Kline
Member of Congress