

Public Policy Position
Organizational Letter Supporting Bill To Remove Gray Wolf From State Game Species List, Addressed To Michigan Legislature Leadership

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 274 members. The Animal Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Animal Law Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this item.

The Animal Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 15 members. On October 8, 2023, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 11 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 4 members did not vote.

Section Council voted to join other organizations in signing onto a letter express our deep concern for wolves in the state and the urgent need to remove them from the state's list of game species.

Explanation:

The status of wolves in Michigan has long been a contentious issue in the state. The Animal Law Section has taken positions at least seven times since 2013 supporting the continued listing of wolves under the federal Endangered Species Act and state law; and opposing any efforts to de-list them, to designate them as a game species under Michigan law, or to call for hunting/trapping. Our position is based on scientific studies demonstrating that wolf hunting and trapping are unnecessary and tear apart pack structure, are detrimental to the state's wolf population, cause conflicts, are not supported by Michigan residents, and are cruel.

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