



Attn: Conference Committee on HF 2310/SF 2438
Re: Taking of Wolves
Date: April 28, 2023
Position: Oppose

Honorable Members of this Conference Committee,

I write you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation to respectfully request that while reconciling the differences between the omnibus Environment, Natural Resources, Climate, and Energy bills (House File 2310 and Senate File 2438), that were adopted by your respective chambers, you reject the inclusion of the HF 2310 language that prohibits the taking of wolves in Minnesota. Professional, scientific management of many wildlife populations includes the use of hunting, and contributes to their healthy, sustainable populations while avoiding many societal conflicts. I respectfully request that you reject any language that would prohibit the regulated taking of wolves, as proscribed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

Wolf populations have far exceeded the recovery goals set by both the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Minnesota DNR with more than 2,700 wolves now inhabiting the state. The USFWS recovery goal has long been accomplished and it is overdue to delist this population from the federal list of endangered species and to have the DNR assume all management responsibility for this species within Minnesota. Presently, Minnesota's wolf population exceeds the DNR's goal of 1,600 wolves by more than 168%, and the DNR is equipped with the tools to manage their population, including through regulated hunting. The constantly growing wolf population threatens the health of the state's other important wildlife species and continues to negatively impact the state's livestock industry through depredation.

This legislature should not prohibit the DNR from utilizing wildlife management techniques that have been proven countless times to contribute to sustainable, managed wolf populations. Once wolves are inevitably removed from federal protections, the DNR will need the flexibility provided by having access to all tools associated with wolf management to manage the species properly and holistically, which includes hunting.

I respectfully request that you reject the inclusion of language that prohibits the taking of wolves.

Sincerely,

Robert Matthews

Senior Coordinator, Great Lakes States
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
rmatthews@congressionalsportsmen.org | 517-210-2890

Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation