March 9, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

On behalf of the 48 groups representing millions of members listed below, we are writing today to ask you to oppose any efforts to legislatively delist endangered wolves. Several bills have already been introduced in the 112th Congress that would remove Endangered Species Act protections from wolves. We believe that passing any of these bills or moving similar efforts would have a devastating effect on the future of the wolves in America, and, more importantly, on the Endangered Species Act itself.

The tremendous recovery of wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains and Great Lakes represents one of America’s greatest wildlife success stories. In the Yellowstone ecosystem and Northern Rockies, where once there were almost no wolves, today there are 1,700 wolves, and in the Great Lakes, wolves have expanded from northeastern Minnesota to Wisconsin and Michigan and now number over 4,000 wolves. But the job of recovery is not yet complete.

With delisting, Wyoming would allow wolves to be shot on sight across most of the state and nearly every other state with wolves proposes dramatic declines in wolf numbers. Moreover, wolves are only beginning to recover in states, such as Washington and Oregon, and not at all in many other states that could again support these iconic animals. In order to ensure continued recovery of wolves, it is vital that we keep in place legal safeguards to protect the wolf and make science-based management decisions.

It is equally important that we do not create the terrible precedent of allowing Congress to reverse Endangered Species Act listings one species at a time. To its credit, Congress has stood up to such efforts in the past. Now is not the time to open the door for members to begin moving bills that would delist individual species.

The Endangered Species Act had the foresight to acknowledge the importance of preserving wildlife of all shapes and sizes and that a species’ value is not just inherent in its own existence but in the role it plays in the complex network of life. Since wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park, we have learned an incredible amount about the important roles wolves play in shaping ecosystems. By shifting the movement patterns of elk, for example, wolves allow streamside vegetation to recover benefitting both beavers and songbirds, and by controlling coyote populations, wolves benefit pronghorn antelope populations.

During its last 37 years, the Endangered Species Act has been an example to the world for how to best protect biodiversity. It remains one of our most important environmental laws, and the restoration of the Gray wolf one of our greatest conservation efforts. Please do not reverse this history. Please stand up to any efforts to undermine the Endangered Species Act and the future of the Gray wolf in America.
Sincerely,

Kieran Suckling  Bill Weiler  
Executive Director  Executive Director  
Center for Biological Diversity  Gifford Pinchot Task Force  

Andrew Wetzler  Walter H. Sykes  
Director Wildlife Conservation Projects  Co-Founder  
Natural Resources Defense Council  NE Oregon Ecosystems  

Tripp Von Noppen  Brooks Fahy  
President  Executive Director  
Earthjustice  Predator Defense  

Michael Brune  Michael Garrity  
Executive Director  Executive Director  
Sierra Club  Alliance for the Wild Rockies  

Rodger Schlickeisen  Gary Macfarlane  
President  Ecosystem Defense Director  
Defenders of Wildlife  Friends of the Clearwater  

Michael Markarian  Jon Marvel  
Chief Operating Officer  Executive Director  
The Humane Society of the United States  Western Watersheds Project  

Leda Huta  Dave Werntz  
Executive Director  Science and Conservation Director  
Endangered Species Coalition  Conservation Northwest  

Steve Pedery  Sean Cosgrove  
Conservation Director  Ocean Campaign Director  
Oregon Wild  Conservation Law Foundation  

Nicole Rosmarino, Ph.D.  Randi Spivak  
Wildlife Program Director  VP Government Affairs  
WildEarth Guardians  Geos Institute  

Duane Short  Jeffrey Flocken  
Wild Species Program Director  DC Office Director  
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance  International Fund for Animal Welfare  

Greg Dyson  Josh Pollock  
Executive Director  Conservation Director  
Hells Canyon Preservation Council  Center for Native Ecosystems  

Walter H. Sykes  Co-Founder  
NE Oregon Ecosystems  

Brooks Fahy  Executive Director  
Predator Defense  

Jon Marvel  Executive Director  
Alliance for the Wild Rockies  

Dave Werntz  Science and Conservation Director  
Conservation Northwest  

Sean Cosgrove  Ocean Campaign Director  
Conservation Law Foundation  

Randi Spivak  VP Government Affairs  
Geos Institute  

Jeffrey Flocken  DC Office Director  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  

Josh Pollock  Conservation Director  
Center for Native Ecosystems  

Center for Biological Diversity  Gifford Pinchot Task Force  

NE Oregon Ecosystems  

Predator Defense  

Alliance for the Wild Rockies  
Western Watersheds Project  

Conservation Northwest  

Geos Institute  

International Fund for Animal Welfare  

Center for Native Ecosystems
Santana Tamarak  
Board Chairman  
Western Nebraska Resources Council  

Patricia Aitken  
Executive Director  
Friends of the Bay  

Steve Anthes  
President  
Kettle Range Conservation Group  

Marianne Edain  
Director  
Whidbey Environmental Action Network  

Dan Silver  
Executive Director  
Endangered Habitats League  

Kirk Robinson, PhD, JD  
Executive Director  
Western Wildlife Conservancy  

David L. Wade  
Director  
Endangered Small Animal Conservation fund  

Cathy Liss  
President  
Animal Welfare Institute  

Edward E. Clark, Jr.  
President  
Wildlife Center of Virginia  

Roz McClellan  
Director  
Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative  

Todd Steiner  
Executive Director  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  

Daryl DeJoy  
Executive Director  
Wildlife Alliance of Maine  

Carrie Phillips  
Assistant Director  
Pandas International  

Kerry Kriger, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
SAVE THE FROGS!  

Caryl McIntire Edwards  
Director  
Voice for Animals  

Keith Hammer  
Chair  
Swan View Coalition  

H. Meade Cadot, Ph. D.  
Director of Land Programs  
Harris Center for Conservation Education  

Cyn Sarthou  
Executive Director  
Gulf Restoration Network  

Monte Thompson  
Executive Director  
Species Alliance  

Dave Holaway  
President  
White Mountain Conservation  

Veronica Egan  
Executive Director  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  

Jeff Williamson  
Arizona Zoological Society  
at The Phoenix Zoo
Kim McCreery, Ph.D.
Regional Director/Carnivore Biologist
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

Melanie Emerson
Executive Director
Sky Island Alliance

Kathryn L. Kennedy
Executive Director
The Center for Plant Conservation

Camilla H. Fox
Executive Director
Project Coyote