



February 23, 2021

Chair Ed McBroom  
Senate Natural Resources Committee  
Binsfield Office Building  
Post Office Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

**Re: Statement from Michigan animal care, protection and conservation organizations opposing SR 15**

Dear Chairman McBroom and honorable members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of the Michigan voters we represent, the undersigned coalition of organizations asks you to oppose Senate Resolution 15 in the Senate Natural Resources Commission. A hearing on this bill is scheduled before your committee on February 24th, 2021 at 8:00 am.

As humane and conservation organizations that dedicate substantial time and resources to improving the lives of Michigan's animals, we believe that Senate Resolution 15 runs contrary to our mission and values. A 2021 wolf hunting and trapping season would not be based on the best available science, ignores the will of Michigan voters and Michigan's tribal communities, and perpetuates the idea that hunting an animal for a trophy is an acceptable and desirable way to interact with our state's wildlife.

The Michigan DNR has already begun an extensive planning process to update Michigan's wolf management plan. Urging a hunt this year when the wolf population has remained stable for a decade, livestock depredations are minimal and there is no documented risk to human safety is unjustifiable. Wildlife is a public trust that belongs to all Michiganders. Urging the hunting and trapping of important apex predators without justification runs contrary to the North American Model of Wildlife Management as well as the will of Michigan voters who twice opposed wolf hunting initiatives across the state.

Much like the dogs who share our homes, wolves are highly intelligent and social animals with strong family ties and clear ability to suffer. In fact, they are 99.9% genetically identical to our canine companions. Perhaps that is partly why so many voters are against the trophy hunting of wolves and would see the rush to establish a hunt as violating principals of sound scientific management. Instead, the majority of residents would rather enjoy and spend their money appreciating wolves as a part of Michigan's beautiful natural landscape and critical and delicate ecosystems.

We hope that you will stand with the majority of Michiganders who appreciate the value of our state's wildlife as important members of our ecosystem and who wish to see their management conducted with thoughtfulness, research, respect and compassion.

Sincerely,

*Ahimsa Safe Haven, Onsted  
All Species Kinship, Battle Creek  
Attorneys for Animals, Canton  
Barn Sanctuary, Chelsea  
Bird Center of Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor  
Chubby Goat Acres, Schoolcraft  
Detroit Zoological Society, Royal Oak  
Harbor Humane, West Olive  
Humane Society of Huron Valley, Ann Arbor  
Humane Society of Macomb, Utica*

*Kalamazoo Cat Café and Rescue, Kalamazoo  
Last Dance Rescue Ranch, Charlevoix  
Michigan Animal Rescue Shelter Network  
Michigan Humane, Detroit  
Out-Back Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Ottawa Lake  
Paws for Life Rescue and Adoption, Troy  
Richland Animal Rescue & Equine Shelter, Richland  
Save a Soul Rescue, Kalkaska  
Songbird Protection Coalition  
SPCA of Southwest Michigan, Kalamazoo*