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June 2, 2021

Sen. Edward McBroom
Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Michigan Senate

Via email, Jackie Mosher, Committee Clerk, jmosher@senate.michigan.gov
ofcsc@senate.michigan.gov

Re: Oppose S.B. 486, Senate Natural Resources Committee Meeting, June 2, 2021

Dear Senator McBroom and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Attorneys for Animals, Inc. (AFA) is a Michigan non-profit and 501(c)(3) organization of legal professionals and animal advocates. The organization's Board of Directors voted to oppose S.B. 486.

A disclosure: AFA and I have a personal interest in this bill because I was appointed on behalf of Attorneys for Animals as the animal advocacy representative to the Wolf Management Advisory Council in March 2021, and I am not a resident of the Upper Peninsula. Despite this, I believe the Chair and Committee members know that AFA speaks on many bills assigned to this Committee. We would be doing so today in opposition, even without this personal connection.

We oppose this bill for the following reasons:

- It runs counter to the prevailing concept of wildlife management in this state, the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation:
 - The Public Trust doctrine: “In the United States, wildlife is considered a public resource, independent of the land or water where wildlife may live.”ⁱ
 - Allocation of wildlife is by law: “Wildlife is allocated to the public by law, as opposed to market principles, land ownership, or other status.”ⁱⁱ
 - To properly utilize this model, a consideration of *public* opinion – not just that of a segment of the public – is necessary in developing wildlife policy
- It runs counter to the premise of the Wildlife Violator Compact, which Michigan has joined and which provides that “participating states find that wildlife resources are managed in trust by the respective states for the benefit of **all** their residents and visitors” (emphasis added) and “[w]ildlife resources are valuable without regard to political boundaries”ⁱⁱⁱ

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- It runs counter to the principle of federalism which defines the relationship between state and federal government, with the federal government being one of limited powers, with the individual states (not part of states) retaining control over their internal affairs
- It is rife with the possibility of unintended consequences, with resources, authority, power, privileges, and the like being allocated by geographic region of the state

We urge the Committee to not report S 486.

Very Truly Yours,



Beatrice M. Friedlander, JD
President

ⁱ <https://www.fws.gov/hunting/north-american-model-of-wildlife-conservation.html>

ⁱⁱ The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, Technical Review 12-04, page 16, <http://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/North-American-model-of-Wildlife-Conservation.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ MCL §324.1615 et seq <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-324-1615>, at (a)(1), (a)(4)