



49651 Shenandoah Circle, Canton, MI 48187
www.attorneysforanimals.org

July 11, 2021

Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners

Re: Proclamation Opposing Wildlife Killing Contests

Dear Commissioners,

Attorneys for Animals, Inc. (AFA) is a Michigan-based nonprofit organization of attorneys and animal advocates. A vast majority of our membership is from Michigan, and we have members from all parts of the state. We have taken positions and testified on a variety of policy and legislative issues that relate to the welfare of animals in state, county and local legislatures, commissions and city councils.

AFA urges the Commission to adopt this proclamation. It is not an anti-hunting measure. Rather it promotes the Public Trust doctrine, the principle upon which our country's wildlife management has been based for over a century. It is a valid exercise of the Commission's authority and has the purpose of bringing an issue to the attention of county residents and their elected officials in the state legislature.

Arizona, California, Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Vermont, and Washington have prohibited wildlife killing contests in recent years, citing ethics, science, and the need to protect their states' hunting traditions. Here in Michigan, Kalamazoo and Washtenaw County Commissions have recently adopted proclamations similar to the one before you.

Wildlife Killing Contests serve no valid wildlife management goal; are wasteful and degrading to the animals who are killed; and pose a risk to the residents and visitors alike who enjoy Ontonagon County's abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities.

Thank you for considering our opinion.

Very Truly Yours,

Beatrice M. Friedlander, JD
President, Board of Directors