

Dear Supporter,

I am so honored to be part of the Keep Michigan Wolves Protected (KMWP) Campaign and am so grateful to all of you who are in the trenches fighting this fight.

As someone who has cared about animals for as long as I can remember, I was so disheartened to learn that our home state of Michigan approved a measure to hunt wolves. That is why I wrote to Governor Snyder urging him to stay the hunt and allow the people's voice to be heard on Election Day. Tragically, as you know, the first hunt has come and gone and 23 wolves have been needlessly killed.

The wolves need us now more than ever. There are only an estimated 658 wolves in Michigan -- a decline from 687 just a year ago -- and approximately 5,500 wolves nationwide. Historically, the gray wolf occupied an expansive range that includes most of the conterminous United States. Today, wolves occupy a mere 5 percent of their historic range.

The KMWP campaign maintained that there is no scientific justification for a wolf hunt in Michigan. Challenges by KMWP and the National Wolfwatcher Coalition to the misinformation being spread by those who seek to hunt wolves for trophies led reporter John Barnes of Michigan Live to take a closer look. His resulting five-piece investigative report blew the whistle on state lawmakers, the Michigan DNR, and a vocal farmer, who all conspired to trump up charges against wolves and drive a policy change to allow for trophy hunting of the state's small population of wolves for the first time in 50 years. The Michigan Live investigative series make clear that the decision to approve wolf hunting was based on fraudulent information and not sound science.

It is shameful the lengths the legislature and the executive branch will go to hunt this shy, iconic creature while at the same time opening the door for other species to be hunted, like the Sandhill Crane. Allowing the NRC to list wolves, and other animals, as a game species with no oversight from voters circumvents the long-established right of Michiganders to be a check and balance on the legislature. The actions of the legislature and the DNR are nothing more than an attempt to shield their deeds from public scrutiny and take away the voters' rights. And truly, if the 255,000 signatures gathered by the Keep Michigan Wolves Protected campaign to support putting PA 520 (which designated wolves as a game species by the legislature) to a referendum vote isn't a perfect example of what the voters in Michigan want, I don't know what is.

The fight is not over and we need you now more than ever. I know winter is upon us, making standing outside collecting signatures harder, but time is of the essence as we need to gather the requisite signatures to qualify for the second time.

Can you pledge to stand with the Keep Michigan Wolves Protected campaign until we bring this campaign across the finish line on Election Day?

You did it once, and you will do it again! I am so proud of you and grateful for all your hard work.

For the wolves,

Iggy Pop

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iggy Pop', written over a large, stylized circular graphic element.