

Joy Brewer

From: Charles, Bonnie <Bonnie.Charles@beaumont.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2016 11:09 AM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: Hearing on Michigan House Resolutions supporting wolf delisting on Wed March 2

To the Michigan House of representatives:

I would like to request that you vote NO on the two proposed resolutions HCR 22 and HCR 28, urging the U.S. Congress to pass S. 659, the Bipartisan Sportmen's Act.

The wildlife of this nation belongs to ALL of it's citizens, not just hunters.. This Act is harmful to wolves, would allow access to 100 million acres of pristine wilderness, allow 41 wealthy "trophy" hunters to import the heads of rare polar bears shot in Canada, prohibits the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from issuing a rule that would stop the worst predator control and killing practices on national wildlife refuges in Alaska and blocks the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Dept of Agriculture from protecting wildlife, habitat and people from lead poisoning through toxic ammunition exposure.

Although this bill is focused primarily on other States, it would also strip wolves of their Federal protection in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act and make such an action **immune from judicial review**, thus allowing the trapping, snaring, shooting and hounding of wolves to resume in the Great Lakes region.

May I respectfully remind you that the Michigan voters spoke their mind when they voted on the wolf hunting issue in November 2014. **Two separate wolf issues were voted down by a very wide majority of Michiganders.** Our wishes on this matter were crystal clear. It seems as if our own lawmakers are trying to override the votes of their citizens.

I realize these are non binding resolutions but do not feel the Michigan House of Representatives needs to make a "show of support" for the Federal Bill.

Thank you for your consideration
Bonnie Charles
A Concerned, Voting Taxpayer
61957 Ticonderoga Dr Unit 6
South Lyon MI 48178

Joy Brewer

From: Robin Naeyaert
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2016 10:14 AM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: FW: Comments for MI House Committee on Tourism and Outdoor Recreation hearing today

From: throckm6@gmail.com [mailto:throckm6@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Elizabeth Throckmorton
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2016 9:22 AM
To: Robin Naeyaert <RNAeyaert@house.mi.gov>
Subject: Comments for MI House Committee on Tourism and Outdoor Recreation hearing today

Dear Robin Naeyaert,

I'd like to submit comments to the Michigan House Committee on Tourism and Outdoor Recreation regarding two resolutions that will be heard today:

HCR 22 and HR 228, the resolutions introduced to urge congress to pass S. 659 (the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act), are dangerous for people, animals, and the environment. I am a professional in this field with a master's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife and a specialization in Disease Ecology and Conservation Medicine, and I am absolutely appalled by what these resolutions and the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act will mean for our future generations. I am incredibly disappointed that the legislature is failing to use science to make these decisions, and failing to listen to experts such as John Vucetich at Michigan Technological University speak about how, for example, a wolf hunt will not solve the problems that it is meant to solve.

I know and respect many hunters and fishermen. These are ethical people that understand that trapping, for example, is cruel and inhumane. They also know that there are many *more* people that truly enjoy the outdoors for the inherent value that it provides while hiking, backpacking, kayaking, and simply watching and enjoying birds and other wildlife. If the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act passes, we face serious risk of losing these wild entities forever. The destruction that we are already causing to our natural areas is well-documented; this is undeniable. The passage of this act will, without question, catalyze this progression.

The motives behind this legislation are clear, and one thing is for sure - the innumerable tax-paying U.S. citizens that oppose this legislation are not "animal rights extremists". We are dedicated, educated citizens that truly value nature for its inherent worth, and we understand that dangerous legislation like this has very serious consequences for the ecosystem and the economy. Nature is intricately connected - when one part of the web is broken, the ecosystem will break down. This is not "animal rights extremism", this is ecological science. We are applying too much pressure on our very fragile environment as it is, and the Bipartisan Sportmen's Act will undoubtedly give it that final push over the edge. I urge my Michigan legislators to oppose these resolutions.

Joy Brewer

From: Sandra Giardini <sandigiardini@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2016 9:04 AM
To: Robin Naeyaert
Cc: Joy Brewer
Subject: Oppose HCR 22 and HR 228

As a concerned Michigan citizen who from 2013-2014 personally collected a total of 6000 signatures in opposition to wolf hunting in our state, I oppose any efforts by the Michigan legislature to undermine the will of the Michigan voters who in November 2014 clearly stated their opposition to the hunting of wolves in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Sandra Giardini
325 Meridan ST
Dearborn, MI 48124

Joy Brewer

From: Anne Honhart <ahonhart@atlaswelding.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 1:17 PM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: Please do NOT support the wrong kind of hunting in HRC 22 and HRC 228

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

March 1, 2016

Dear Committee Clerk Joy Brewer,

Please pass my comments on to the members of the Michigan House Committee on Tourism and Outdoor Recreation regarding HRC 22 and HRC 228.

Dear Members of the Michigan House Committee on Tourism and Outdoor Recreation,

Please do not pass resolutions supporting the passage of the Federal S. 659, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act. The contents are not sportsmanlike nor are they good for the environment.

- Our lands and birds and animals do not need any more lead shot and this bill would strip away the regulatory authority of the Dept. of the Interior and the US Dept. of Agriculture to protect us from more lead exposure.
- Trapping should not be considered hunting. It is simply a cruel and painful way to kill animals for profit and should not be allowed on OUR federal lands. (Reports for Trapping Associations state that they are mainly selling their pelts to China and Russia). This will only fuel more of our wildlife being killed for other countries' consumption.
- Michigan voters have rejected the hunting of wolves twice as recently at the November 2014 election. By delisting wolves from the Endangered Species Act, this Sportsmen's Act will open the doors for Great Lakes and Wyoming wolves to be subjected to the shooting, trapping, snaring and hounding. And incredibly this Act's amendment prohibits any further judicial review and protective court decisions which is a terrible precedent to set.
- This Act vilely blocks the FWS and the National Park Service from protecting wildlife in OUR Wildlife refuges and national preserves and park lands from unethical hunting practices such as: killing bears and cubs or wolves and cubs when denning, or using traps and snares and aerial gunning, or bait piles to kill bears and wolves. These practices are the lowest form of hunting and are not considered "Fair Chase".
- Importation of polar bear parts for trophies should not be allowed after the polar bear protection treaties were made. To do so is not consistent with other laws and will only encourage more people to break the law by killing protected species or other prohibited acts.

This Sportsmen's Act blocks the thoughtful Federal Wildlife and National Park Service recommendations for the benefit of trophy hunters and trappers. Why would you support self-interested individuals rather than the majority of Americans who benefit from seeing the wild in our wilderness. We are leaving less and less to our children and their children. Now is the time to conserve and preserve the wildlife of this world not to diminish them.

Thank you.

Anne Honhart
197 E. Frank Street
Birmingham, MI 48009

ATTORNEYS FOR ANIMALS, INC.

Respectfully submits the following position on:

**House Resolution (HR) 228
and House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 22**

Attorneys for Animals, Inc. (AFA) is a Michigan non-profit and 501(c)(3) organization of legal professionals and animal advocates. We work within the legal system so animals are recognized and protected as individuals by combining advocacy, litigation and legislative efforts with education.

RESOLUTIONS:

HR 228 - (Rep. McBroom) - A resolution to urge the United States Congress to enact legislation that will enhance hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other outdoor recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women nationwide.

HCR 22 - (Rep. McBroom) - A concurrent resolution to urge the United States Congress to enact legislation that will enhance hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other outdoor recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women nationwide.

POSITION:

Oppose

EXPLANATION OF THE POSITION:

These resolutions urge the United States Congress to pass Senate Bill 659, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015. The resolutions list selective programs that S 659 renews or creates, but do not provide a full picture of the scope of S 659 and the harm it poses to wildlife. We object to the following provisions in the bill, none of which are addressed in the resolutions, which:

- strip gray wolves of their federal protections in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act; and make such an action immune from judicial review (Sec. 14)
- make lead ammunition exempt from regulation under the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (Sec. 2 of the bill)
- allow importation of the polar bear parts shot by trophy hunters (Sec. 4)
- relax prohibitions against baiting of birds covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (Sec. 5)

Two of these provisions have particular significance for Michigan legislators. First, the de-listing of wolves several years ago led to passage of three bills by the Michigan Legislature adding them as a game species. However, in the 2014 general election, voters in the state overturned two of these bills by referendum (the third was made referendum-proof).

Second, given the unfolding Flint water crisis, Michigan legislators should carefully consider any proposals, including these resolutions, that will result in additional exposure to lead or its release into the environment. The resolutions do not provide that opportunity because of the cursory analysis of the content and implications of S 659.

(above based on text of S 659 as it appears here: <https://www.congress.gov/bills/114th-congress/senate-bill/659/text#toc-id60af039b-463d-4dc8-85a5-e6f0ac869190>)

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ATTORNEYS FOR ANIMALS, MARCH 1, 2016

CONTACT PERSON AND E-MAIL: BEATRICE M. FRIEDLANDER, JD, PRESIDENT

BEEFRIEDLANDER@YAHOO.COM

Joy Brewer

From: jyl forsyth <jylforsyth@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 11:22 AM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: Hi Joy. Jill Forsyth here from Birmingham MI

PLEASE this (these) bills cannot go through.

My husband Brett Blanchard (he lives in B'ham also but a different house)
Both want wolves to NOT be on the hunted list. They should be on the ENDANGERED LIST because they are endangered.
We want polar bear trophies to NOT be allowed in the USA.
We are against the hunting and trapping of wolves.

We are against ivory coming into America.

We want wolves to live.
We want polar bears to live and thrive.
We want elephants to do the same.
We are opposed to forests being cut down.

I cannot be there today my dog had double knee surgery.

I want it known that this bill is non-sense.

SAVE OUR ANIMALS!!!!!!
SAVE OUR WOLVES, POLAR BEARS and ELEPHANTS!!!
Sincerely,

Jill Forsyth and Brett Blanchard.

Joy Brewer

From: Andrea Hartman <andreaheartman@wideopenwest.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 8:26 PM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: HCR22 and HR228

In the 2014 election Michigan voters resoundingly rejected both of the proposed wolf hunting laws. The voters have spoken and both HCR 22 and HR 228 are anti democratic abominations.

Andrea Hartman

Joy Brewer

From: Joellen Gilchrist <joellengilchrist@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 12:31 AM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: HCR 22 and HR228

Please oppose HCR 22 and HCR 228 and . 659urge Congress to pass S.659, the Bipartisan Sportsman's Act.

Thank you,

Joellen Gilchrist
Beverly Hills, MI

**Michigan House Committee on Tourism and
Outdoor Recreation**

House Concurrent Resolution HCR 22

House Resolution 228

February 29, 2016



National Wolfwatcher Coalition
Great Lakes Region
PO Box 102
Ewen, MI 49925
(906) 988 2892
<http://wolfwatcher.org>

Dear Committee Members,

The National Wolfwatcher Coalition is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting positive attitudes about wolves through education. Nationwide, we have over 250,000 supporters, representing not only Michigan residents but others who recreate in the state and purchase Michigan products.

We ask that you **oppose** House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 22 and House Resolution (HR) 228, urging the U. S. Congress to pass S. 659, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act.

We cannot allow a small, but vocal, minority, dictate policy and we should not be held captive by the gun industry. While annual hunting participation in Michigan has decreased from levels a decade ago, wildlife watching has increased creating a 2.1 billion dollar industry when the direct, indirect and induced effects of wildlife-watching expenditures are included See 2011 US Fish & Wildlife report <http://digitalmedia.fws.gov/cdm/ref/collection/document/id/1906>

S. 659 is loaded with many anti-wildlife and anti-environment provisions and is a mirror image of the SHARE Act which passed in the House of Representatives last week. Polls indicate the majority of Americans (and Michigan voters) oppose these bills. If passed, the Bipartisan Sportsman's Act would:

- Prevent the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service from restricting the illegal ivory trade and send the message to the armed criminals who are decimating Africa's last herds that the American market is still open for business.
- Require Dept of Interior to issue permits to allow a hunter to import polar bear parts (other than internal organs) if the bear was legally harvested in Canada from an approved population before the May 15, 2008, listing of the polar bear as threatened.

- Exempt components of firearms and ammunition and sport fishing equipment and its components (such as lead sinkers) from regulations of chemical substances under the Toxic Substances Control Act posing significant health risks to humans and wildlife. Lead bullets represent a problem for anything that ingests them because they fragment into hundreds of tiny pieces when they strike an animal being shot. As a result, many scavengers and raptors, including eagles, die annually from toxic lead poisoning. Studies also suggest that lead fragments can be found in wild game meat processed for human consumption, even though best attempts are made in the field to remove sections that are within the bullet wound channel.
- Guts existing Clean Water Act safeguards that protect our streams, rivers, and lakes from excessive pesticide pollution. It would allow the discharge of pesticides into water bodies without meaningful oversight, since the federal pesticide registration law (the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)) does not require tracking of such applications.
- Prohibit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from finalizing a rule that would prohibit certain unethical practices on Alaskan refuge lands, such as the use of traps or bait in bear hunting, hunting wolves and coyotes during denning season, and hunting bear cubs or bear sows with cubs.
- Directs the Secretary of the Interior to reissue two wolf delisting rules that federal courts held were illegal under the Endangered Species Act. In addition, the amendment blocks judicial review of the faulty federal rules, thus preventing citizens from challenging the delisting of wolves in Wyoming, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Despite the exaggerated claims made, depredation by wolves remains low, especially when compared to other losses. The will of the people of Michigan must be respected and in the November 2014 general election, voters rejected two wolf hunting laws.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment and we hope you will vote no to both HCR 22 and HR 228.

Sincerely,
Nancy Warren
Nancy Warren
Executive Director

Joy Brewer

From: Joanna Tomacari <cottondog1@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 11:18 AM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: Oppose House Concurrent Resolution HCR 22 and Resolution HR 228

I am a life long resident of Upper Michigan and strongly oppose HCR 22 and HR 228. Our legislators are spreading false fear mongering information regarding our wolves and this has to stop. The people of Michigan have spoken and we want to keep our wolves protected!

I've been walking in the woods with my dogs for 40+ years and have yet to encounter a problem with any sort of wildlife. We need our predators, we need all wildlife. They all play a unique role in the ongoing balance of our ecosystem.

Kill all of the Coyotes, we have an increase in rodents! Many hunters confuse Coyotes and Wolves even though they look very different.

We need our wildlife. Wildlife belongs to ALL of us, not a select special interest group who wants to decimate the population. This is wrong!

Respectfully,

**Joanna Tomacari
362 S. Francis Mine Dr.
Gwinn, Michigan 49841**

906-346-6964

Joy Brewer

From: J. Winkowski <jwsnowyplains@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 11:03 AM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: Oppose House Concurrent Resolution HCR 22 and House Resolution HR 228

We strongly oppose House Concurrent Resolution HCR 22 and House Resolution HR 228.

The SHARE ACT (House) and Bipartisan Sportsman's Act are irresponsibly pro-hunting and anti-environment. They are unnecessary and damaging.

Regarding wolves in particular, we are both lifelong residents of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and we are appalled at the misinformation our legislators and biased news media have communicated and spread about wolves. Still, Michigan voters rejected two wolf hunting laws in the November 2014 general election.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Winkowski
James Winkowski
270 Flodin Road
Gwinn, MI 49841
Phone 906-249-1011
Email jwsnowyplains@yahoo.com

Joy Brewer

From: Melanie Weberg <sheaessencealpacas@me.com>
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 11:01 AM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: Oppose House Concurrent Resolution HCR 22 and House Resolution HR 228

Hello

As stated, I am writing in opposition to house concurrent resolution HCR 22 and House Resolution HR 228.

Thank you for your time.

Melanie Weberg
League of Humane Voters®
www.lohvwi.org
info@lohvwi.org



Joy Brewer

From: Judy Brock <jcbrock@ameritech.net>
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 10:32 AM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: HCR22 and HR 228 Public Comment Submission

Attention: Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk

We respectfully request that our comments be submitted to all Committee members:

We wish to express our opposition to HCR22 and HR 228. These resolutions would indicate Michigan legislators support Federal S.659, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act.

We do not support these resolutions or this Act.

We live in Emmet County, where outdoor recreation is important to locals and visitors alike. It is vital to the economy of the area. A recent wolf sighting has been confirmed by the MDNR and that is exciting to us. The wolf is a very important component to a healthy ecosystem, this is a scientific fact. We cannot support legislation that would strip wolves of federal protection in Michigan.

We were one of the many volunteers that stood out in the cold Michigan winters to collect signatures from Michigan voters for the TWO ballot referendums to protect Michigan wolves. Those voters were heard across Michigan on both proposals proving they oppose wolf hunting in our state. However, ONCE again our own legislators are denying that the Michigan voters made it VERY CLEAR they do not want the Michigan wolf hunted. We cannot comprehend why that is not understood by our legislators. These resolutions once again disregard the voters' efforts, the voters' voices, the voters' decisions. There should be no question what Michigan voters support – they already told you when they voted against wolf hunting.

In addition to the wolves being stripped of federal protection in Michigan, there are many other elements in S.659 that we do not support. These include: Weakening the "Wilderness Act" by allowing trophy hunters and trappers access to over 100 million acres of wilderness across the U.S., changing regulatory authority related to lead poisoning from toxic ammunition, changes in the "Marine Mammal Protection Act" allowing trophy hunters importation of heads of polar bears hunted in Canada, prohibiting USFWS to stop predator control/killing practices on national wildlife refuges in Alaska, this involves brown bear baiting and aerial gunning.

These are a few of the changes that we feel are unacceptable and inappropriate. We urge the House Committee on Tourism and Outdoor Recreation to hear our concerns and to realize that none of these changes are scientifically appropriate for the Michigan wolves, as well as the people, environment, habitat and other wildlife across the country. With hope that our voices will be heard this time.

Thank you,
Judy and Curt Brock
1185 Hideaway Valley, #69
Harbor Springs, MI 49740
231-242-0276

Joy Brewer

From: dorot39@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2016 9:24 PM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: Comment on sportsman act

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am commenting on our Michigan government taking up an interest in a bill to delist the wolves and give hunters more power than sightseers of the wildlife in Michigan. When we go on vacations, it is to see wildlife. Last year we went to Washington state and Oregon and spent our whole vacation enjoying the orcas, and wildlife. That was thousands spent to kill nothing.....just enjoying the 'lives' we do not get to see in Michigan. Sightseeing wildlife brings in much more money than hunting.

Why is the Michigan House taking such an interest in a federal bill that largely addresses hunter access in other states? Aren't there enough issues right here in Michigan for our lawmakers to focus on?

We voted on this issue a couple of years ago, and the citizens told our lawmakers to leave the wolves alone! So listen to the citizens, and leave the wolves alone.

Thank you for your time,
Dorothy Rodgers/ Scott Flietstra
7312 Westlane
Jenison Mi. 49428