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Canton, MI 48187

January 16, 2018

Representative Gary Howell
Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Michigan House of Representatives

Hand delivered and via email: Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk, joybrewer@house.mi.gov

Re: Opposition to HR 5321, House Natural Resources Committee Meeting, January 17, 2018

Dear Rep. Howell 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 HR 5321**.

We believe this bill represents bad public policy. It provides in relevant part (page 6, lines 1-2): THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT ISSUE A PERMIT THAT AUTHORIZES THE STERILIZATION OF GAME. These 13 words are a significant step back from legislative policy developed over several decades to encourage and require the use of science in the management of wildlife.ⁱ

The use of sterilization as a tool of managing game is a science-driven endeavor. In July 2017 the federal Environmental Protection Agency extended the use of PZP to sterilize deerⁱⁱ, a variant of a substance which had been found effective several years earlier for use in sterilizing feral or wild horses and burros.ⁱⁱⁱ

This bill would preempt any consideration of non-lethal scientific methods of population control, an important tool and one that AFA, as well as many Michigan citizens, consider to be humane and necessary.

Attorneys for Animals asks that this bill not be passed out of committee.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beatrice M. Friedlander".

Beatrice M. Friedlander, JD
President

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ⁱ See, e.g., MCLA §324.40113a: (1) The legislature finds and declares that: ... (b) The conservation of fish and wildlife populations of the state depend upon the wise use and sound scientific management of the state's natural resources. <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-324-40113a>

ⁱⁱ https://www3.epa.gov/pesticides/chem_search/ppls/086833-00001-20170706.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ https://www3.epa.gov/pesticides/chem_search/reg_actions/pending/fs_PC-176603_01-Jan-12.pdf which registered PZP/ZonaStat-H as a tool for management of nuisance feral and wild horses, and burros.