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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 24, 2010

COMMITTEES:

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The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

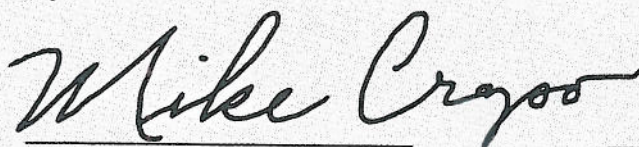
We write to once again express our appreciation for the Department of the Interior's decision to delist the gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in Idaho. As you know, the good work of state and federal wildlife managers, scientists and local communities made it possible for wolves to not only be recovered, but to achieve healthy populations in the northern Rockies. These levels of success were at one time considered unattainable, but our state, through close work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), showed otherwise.

We are deeply concerned, however, with a recent decision in the United States District Court for the District of Montana, to relist the wolf under the ESA for procedural reasons. This ruling entirely ignores the successful recovery of the gray wolf in Idaho, as well as our state's strong wolf management plan, which, as you know, has been approved by the FWS and has demonstrated Idaho's role as a responsible and effective manager of gray wolf populations within our boundaries. This was a most unfortunate decision, which will provide no certainty for states and will undermine state and local confidence in collaborative species recovery efforts.

It is vital that Idaho be permitted to manage its wildlife populations. As such, we request that the Department of the Interior vigorously appeal the District Court's decision to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. It is imperative that the Department of the Interior put forth any and all necessary resources in order to successfully appeal and overturn the District Court's decision.

Again, we thank you for the good efforts that you and your employees have put forth over the last several years to help find a way forward on this difficult issue. We look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,



Senator Mike Crapo



Senator James Risch