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County Administration Office
221 S. Roop Street, Suite 4
Susanville, CA 96130
Phone: 530-251-8333
Fax: 530-251-2663

The Honorable Donald J. Trump

President of the United States

Subject: Request for Federal Delisting of the Gray Wolf in Lassen County, California

Dear President Trump,

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your consideration in removing the Gray Wolf from the Federal Endangered Species List, particularly in regions such as ours where the impacts have been especially severe.

The Gray Wolves currently inhabiting Lassen County and other disadvantaged areas of Northern California, including Modoc, Siskiyou, Plumas, Sierra, Tulare, Shasta, and Tehama counties, are not native to our region. Historically, the native wolves of California were significantly smaller, and according to accounts from our local Native American Tribes, they did not hold significant cultural importance.

Since the return of Gray Wolves to Lassen County in 2016, our community has faced numerous economic and public safety challenges. The first confirmed livestock kill by wolves occurred in 2017, marking the establishment of California's first wolf pack in over a century. In response, a compensation program was initiated in 2020 to reimburse ranchers for confirmed livestock losses. However, this program was not retroactive, leaving ranchers uncompensated for losses between 2017 and 2020. The original \$3 million allocated to the program was exhausted within four years and has only been replenished with \$600,000—far below what is necessary to support ongoing losses.

In March 2025 alone, Lassen County livestock producers experienced eight confirmed wolf kills. A University of California Regents study, conducted between June and October 2024, analyzed 101 wolf scat samples from the Lassen Pack and found that 84% contained beef DNA. Yet, during that same period, only seven confirmed kills were officially documented—suggesting that the actual impact on livestock is significantly underreported.

Furthermore, we are witnessing increasingly concerning behaviors from these animals. Wolves have been recorded near inhabited homes and are showing signs of habituation to human activity, creating growing public safety concerns.

Given these facts, we urge your Administration to consider the delisting of the Gray Wolf—either broadly or, at minimum, within counties such as ours that have been disproportionately affected. As a point of note, Lassen County supported your candidacy in the 2024 Presidential Election with over 76% of the vote.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. We greatly appreciate your leadership and hope for swift action to alleviate the burdens faced by our rural communities.

Sincerely,
Tom Neely Chair, Lassen County Board of Supervisors