

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

We write today to urge an end to the cycle of policy proposals and legal defeats over gray wolves at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service's focus on removing wolves from the endangered species list not only ignores science but also poses a direct threat to the credibility of the agency and the long-term viability of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It is time for a new approach for wolves that more closely aligns with those that have resulted in the successful recovery of species such as the bald eagle.

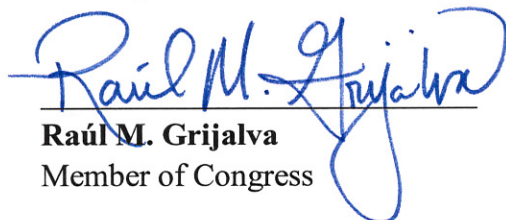
Scientific experts have shown, and courts have confirmed, that the best available science does not justify the removal of all ESA protections for gray wolves at this time. By continuing to assert otherwise, the Service is overshadowing the good work it did in the 1990s to reintroduce and begin recovering gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains. Once on the cusp of writing one of the great conservation success stories of our time, the Service has reversed course and has not considered alternatives that meet the requirements of the ESA while also giving states more flexibility to manage conflicts between wolves and livestock. This approach has created uncertainty for states and stakeholders, hindered species' recovery, and led some to believe that Congressional action to delist gray wolves is the only viable solution.

We view a legislative delisting as an extreme proposal that is at odds with the intent of the ESA and the wishes of our constituents. We are deeply troubled by this prospect and any indication from the Department that it may support such legislation. Undermining the law and the Department's credibility in this manner would set a damaging precedent and would cripple our ability to protect and recover other threatened and endangered species in the future.

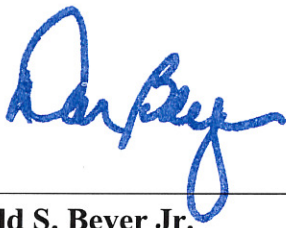
As an alternative, we urge you to direct the Service to follow the science and the law and modify the June 2013 proposed delisting of gray wolves to instead downlist the species to threatened status. This approach would allow states significantly increased certainty and flexibility in managing wolves within their borders while also ensuring that the species can continue to recover in suitable areas. We understand that the Department has recently received a petition requesting it to take such action, and we ask you to give that petition your full consideration within the timeframe set forth under the ESA.

We look forward to hearing from you and to working together on this important manner.

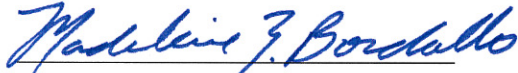
Sincerely,


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



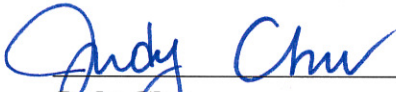
Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



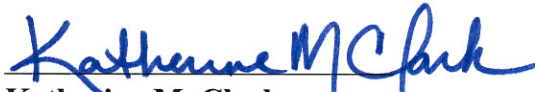
Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



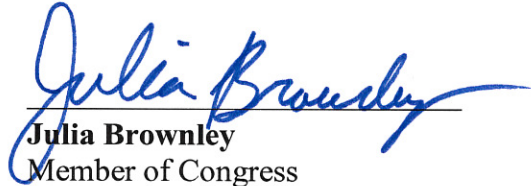
Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Gerald Connolly
Member of Congress



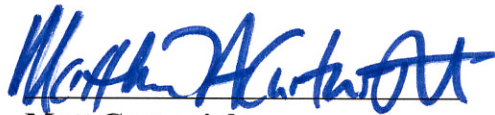
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



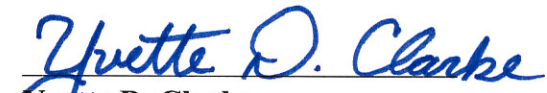
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



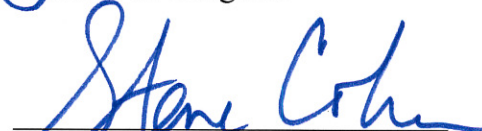
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



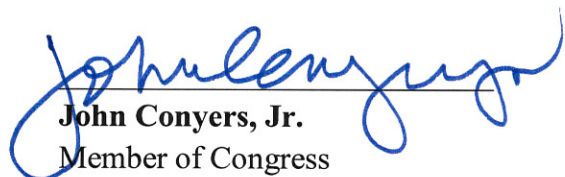
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



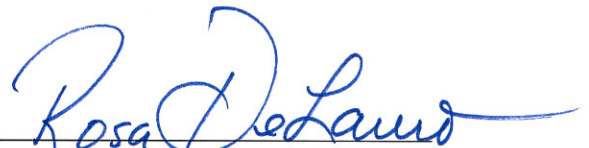
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



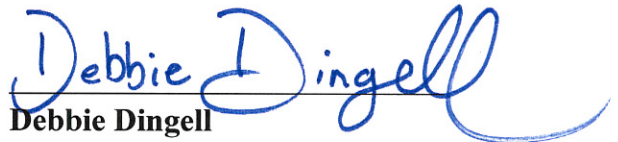
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



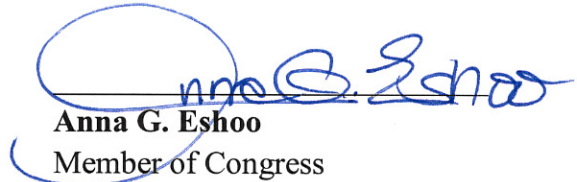
Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



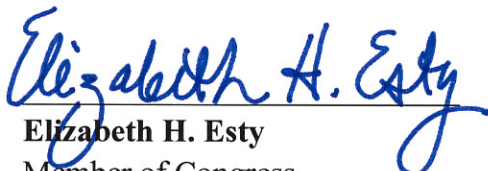
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



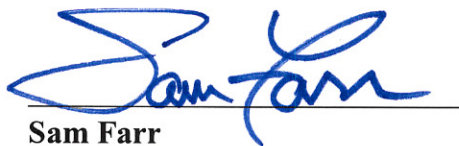
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



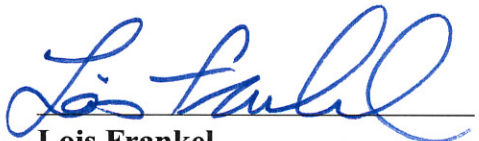
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



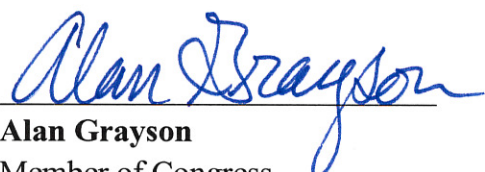
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



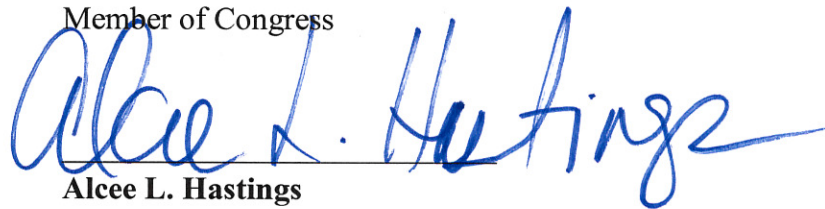
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress



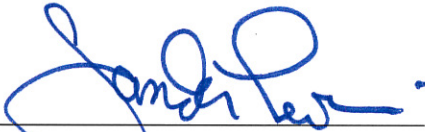
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



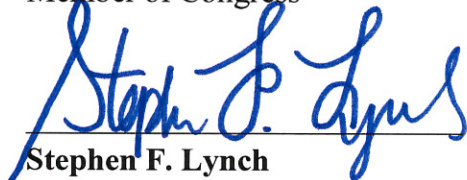
Sandy Levin
Member of Congress



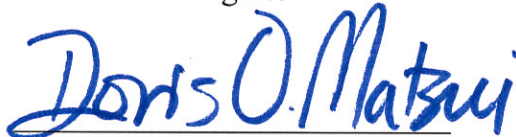
Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



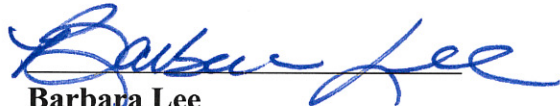
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



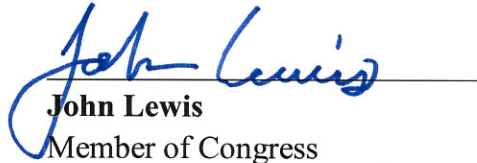
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



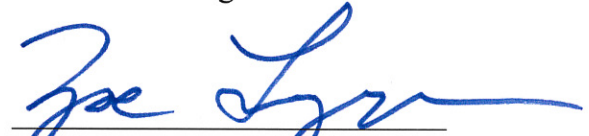
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



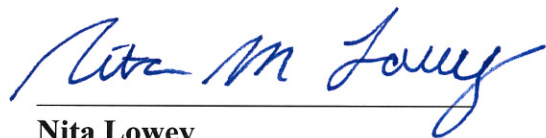
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



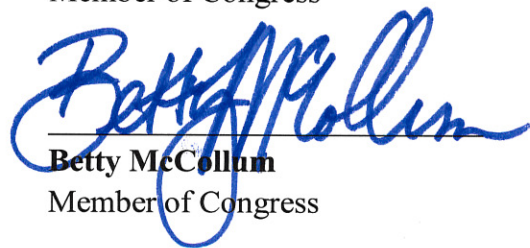
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



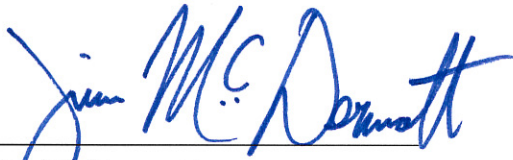
Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



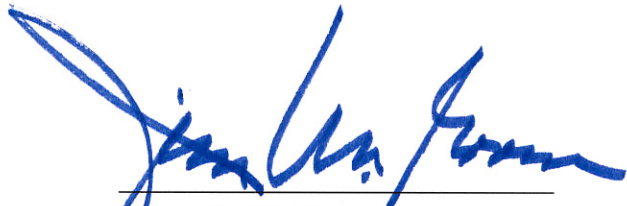
Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



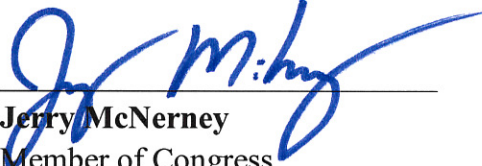
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



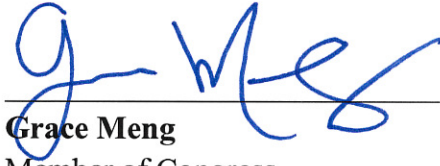
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



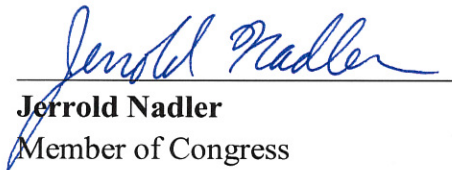
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



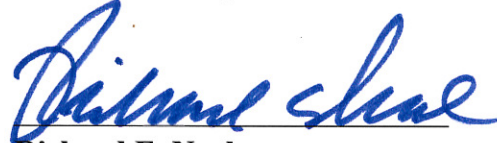
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress




Grace Meng
Member of Congress



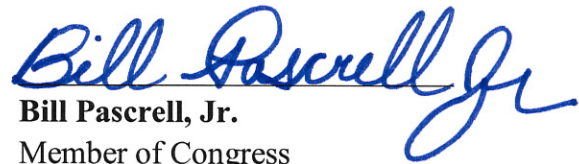
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



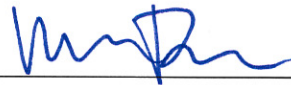
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



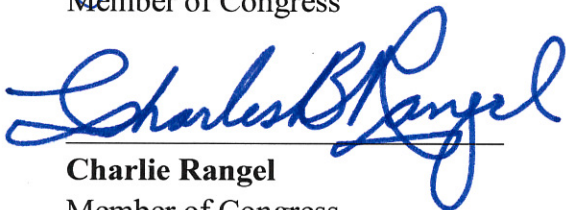
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



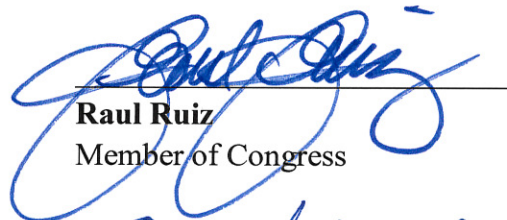
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



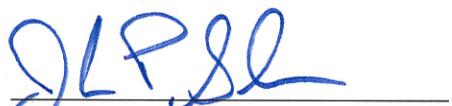
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



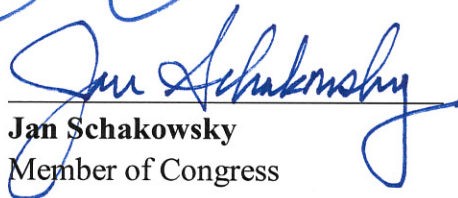
Charlie Rangel
Member of Congress



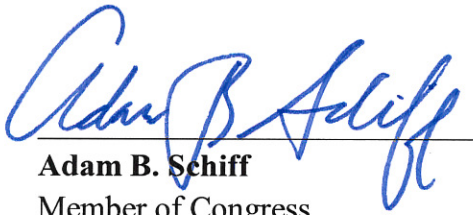
Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



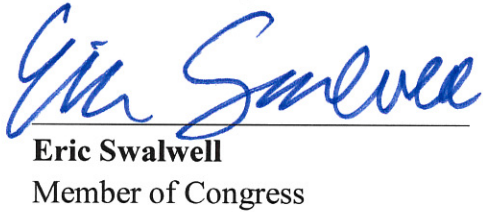
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

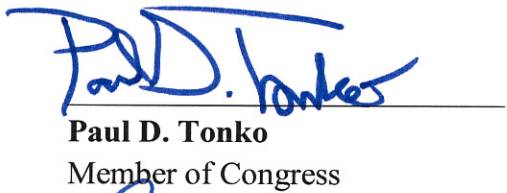


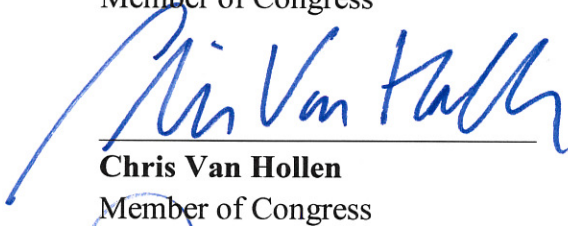
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

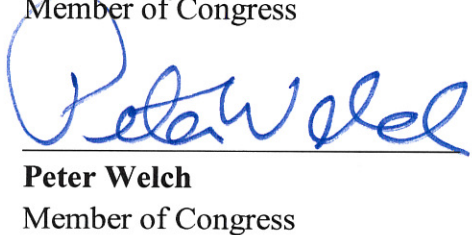

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

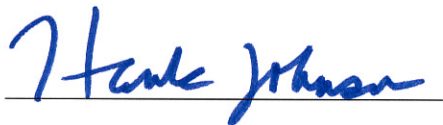

Chris Smith
Member of Congress

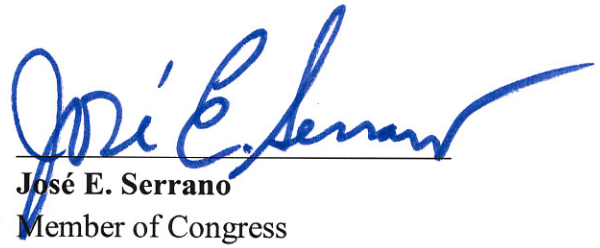

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

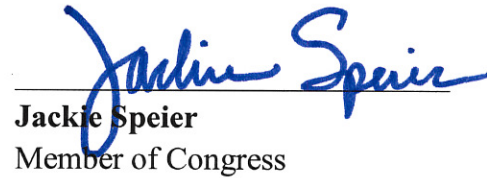

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

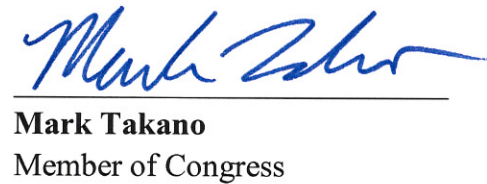

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress

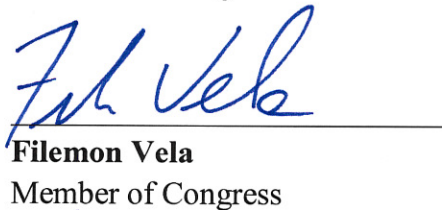

Hank Johnson

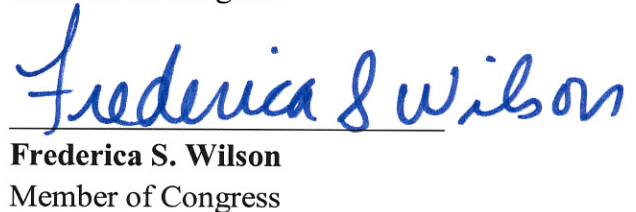

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress


Mark Takano
Member of Congress


Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress


Filemon Vela
Member of Congress


Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress