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DISTRICT 19



COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
LAND, AGRICULTURE &
RURAL AFFAIRS,
Chairman

ETHICS, Chairman

Arizona House of Representatives

August 13, 2025

House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife & Fisheries
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for H.R. 4255 – Enhancing Safety for Animals Act of 2025

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

As Chairman of the Arizona House of Representatives Land, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee, I express strong support for H.R. 4255 to remove the Mexican wolf from the endangered species list and delink its population from Mexico. This legislation is necessary to restore balance in wildlife management, protect rural livelihoods, and ensure that management decisions reflect ecological realities rather than political pressure.

Nearly 90% of the Mexican wolf’s historical range lies in Mexico, yet Arizona and New Mexico ranchers are bearing the overwhelming share of the economic and logistical burden. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) counts recovery within Mexico toward U.S. population goals, effectively punishing American ranchers for a foreign country’s failure to manage its own wolf populations. Immediate delinking is necessary to ensure that American ranchers are not forced to subsidize Mexico’s inaction.

The Mexican wolf population in the United States has already surpassed original federal recovery targets. The 1982 recovery plan called for 100 wolves in the wild; today, there are at least 286 in the wild with hundreds more in captivity—far more than the original plan called for. The population has grown steadily for years, demonstrating that the species is no longer at risk of extinction.

Meanwhile, the cost to our ranchers and taxpayers has been exponential. The program has consumed over \$220 million, with another \$47–\$59 million projected through 2030, equating to \$500,000 to \$1 million per wolf. This “experimental” program, once framed as a tool for ecological balance, has become a taxpayer-funded bureaucracy that benefits activists and government agencies at the expense of rural families, putting the rights of wolves over the rights of property owners.

This is no longer just a matter of wildlife management—it is a matter of fairness, property rights, and justice. Our rural communities have been forced to live with the consequences of policies driven more by ideology than by sound science. These are not lone, fragile animals—they are established, vicious packs whose habituation to humans have escalated risks to public safety and rural economies, threatening families, pets, and livestock. Every depredation is more than a financial setback—it is an emotional and cultural blow to families whose livelihoods depend on their herds.

H.R. 4255 will correct these imbalances by removing the Mexican wolf from the ESA and delinking it from Mexico’s population goals, returning management authority to the states. This will allow for practical, locally informed strategies that safeguard both the species and the people who share its range.

I urge the Committee to advance H.R. 4255 and provide relief to the ranchers, communities, and economies of rural Arizona.

Respectfully,



Lupe Diaz
Representative, District 19
Arizona House of Representatives

