



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fé

June 11, 2025

GAIL ARMSTRONG
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The Honorable Paul Gosar, D.D.S.
U.S. House of Representatives
2057 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Gosar:

I am writing to express my strong support for your legislation that would remove the Mexican wolf from the lists of threatened and endangered species. This legislation will help address a serious problem in southwestern New Mexico where the reintroduction of the Mexican wolf is causing significant economic losses for ranchers and farmers due to the ongoing loss of livestock, as well as heightened concerns about public safety. Yet, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) has refused to take or approve lethal removal of those Mexican wolves that are responsible for the depredation of cattle, horses and other livestock.

Therefore, removing the Mexican wolf from the threatened and endangered species lists will help local communities address this problem in an efficient manner that will reduce livestock losses and reduce serious safety risks to humans and pets. Hopefully, delisting the Mexican wolf should also result in streamlining depredation evidentiary standards, which have unfortunately been made stricter recently, to ensure ranchers and farmers are compensated properly for livestock losses.

I firmly believe your legislation is a positive step forward in getting the USFWS to recognize that the Mexican wolf no longer requires federal protection as it has surpassed recovery goals for gene diversity, population growth and abundance and release targets. Further, it is my understanding that at the end of 2024, there was documented evidence of at least 286 wild Mexican wolves and approximately 350 captive Mexican wolves in the U.S.

Thank you for taking a leadership role in helping New Mexican ranchers and farmers, as well as local communities, finally see a more realistic approach be proposed to create the

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necessary balance between wildlife management and the ability to make a living and protect public safety.

If I can do anything more to assist your legislation in moving successfully through Congress, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Armstrong", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gail Armstrong
House Republican Leader
House District 49