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Senator John Heinz
SR-277 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear John,

Patricia and I are deeply concerned about any amendment to the Endangered Species Act that would allow a so-called "sport season" on wolves or grizzly bears..

The wolf is threatened in Minnesota and the grizzly is threatened in Montana.

Few farmers are impacted by wolf predation and those that suffer livestock losses are compensated by the state.

Further, the Appeals Court ruling allows federal agents to kill wolves that prey on livestock.

Our wolf population should be encouraged to increase. Wolves have an involved family culture, high intelligence with magnificent ways.

There is now an high illegal kill in northern Minnesota estimated to be 250 - 400 wolves annually. We need enforcement to protect them and programs to help improve the attitudes toward the wolf in northern Minnesota.

I have been a dog team driver, raiser of northern dogs and master of a half wolf from 2 Minnesota blood lines.

Can you please let me know if you share our concerns for the protection of these beautiful creatures?

Respectfully yours,

Shaw Mudge

SM/cet