MINNESOTA DFL RESOLUTION FORM

(Submit one resolution per form and one subject per resolution)

Congressional Organizing Unit:	Precinct:			
Proposed by:	(City)	Contact Phone # / E-mail		
This resolution should be considered under the following ca				
O_Agriculture & Food		O National Security & International Policy		
OBusiness & Community Development	Natural Reso	• Natural Resources & the Environment		
Civil, Human & Constitutional Rights	O Public Safety	O Public Safety & Crime Prevention		
O Consumer Issues	O Retirement S	O Retirement Security		
• Education	Tax & Budget Policy			
O Energy	\bigcirc Transportation			
O Government Accountability to the Public	O Veterans Affairs			
\bigcirc Health & Human Services		****		
C Labor & Employment	<u>O</u> Local or Part	<u>C</u> Local or Party Issues		
This resolution is intended for the following: [check one]				
O Action Agenda	Ongoing Pla	Ongoing Platform		

The State DFL Ongoing Platform embodies the principles of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. The State DFL Action Agenda is a set of recommended public policy positions which the party supports and will promote during the next two years.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: (<u>Please</u> print or attach your resolution here. Any WHEREAS clauses or supporting statements should be included on the back of this form.)

the DFL supports (1) the repeal of laws that allow recreational hunting and trapping of wolves, (2) legislation to implement non-lethal techniques to prevent livestock-wolf conflicts, and (3) educational efforts to increase public tolerance of wolves.

A-1

WHEREAS, Minnesotans (Native-American and non-Native American alike) consider wolves to be an iconic animal, of great spiritual and cultural significance, similar to the federally-protected bald eagle; and,

WHEREAS, the wolf was on the first list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and,

WHEREAS, although the Endangered Species Act is responsible for the wolf's current existence, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is likely to remove the wolf from the U.S. endangered species list and place the wolf under the jurisdiction of the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; and,

WHEREAS, with the wolf under State of Minnesota jurisdiction, there will be pressure to open a recreational wolf hunting and trapping season, which the large majority of Minnesotans oppose; and,

WHEREAS, human-caused mortality is the most limiting factor for wolf recovery; and,

WHEREAS, recreational hunting and trapping of wolves have unintended consequences that recklessly risk the wolf population, such as: (1) decreasing genetic diversity; (2) increasing livestock predation; (3) increasing wolf mortality for those that survive the hunt; and (4) enabling the continuation of wolf persecution; and,

WHEREAS, after federal delisting, Minnesota already has liberal laws in place to address wolf conflicts. Minnesota Statute 97B.671 allows wolves to be baited and killed - after the fact – for mere suspicion of predation on livestock. Minnesota Statute 97B.645 allows a person to kill a wolf, at any time of the year and without a permit: (1) in defense of human life; or (2) if the wolf poses an immediate threat to livestock, a guard animal, or a domestic animal; and

WHEREAS, wolves have much greater value to our state alive. As an apex predator, wolves are vital for a healthy ecosystem. They attract visitors from all over the world, who value Minnesota's strong advocacy for wolves, and seek the experience of wolf habitat, such as viewing signs of wolves or experiencing the unforgettable sound of howling wolves.

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the DFL party's "ongoing platform" is amended to add the following language under the category of Natural Resources and the Environment:

"We oppose:

... Any effort by Congress to either: (1) exempt any animal or plant from protection under the Endangered Species Act; or (2) overturn a court decision that protects an animal or plant species under the Endangered Species Act."

A-1

WHEREAS, in 1973 Congress passed and President Nixon signed the Endangered Species Act, which provides animals and plants with the <u>last</u> legal protection before they become extinct;

WHEREAS, federal agencies work with states, Indian tribes, and local partners to administer the Endangered Species Act;

WHEREAS, decisions under the Endangered Species Act are subject to review by federal courts;

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2011, Congress for the first time ever caused the removal of protections for an endangered species by attaching a 10-line rider to a 175-page budget bill, which stripped Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in all of Montana, Idaho, the eastern third of Washington and Oregon, and a small portion of northern Utah; and

WHEREAS, US Senators and Representatives have threatened legislation to exempt other species or distinct populations from any protection under the Endangered Species Act, thereby preempting the scientific analysis and judicial review necessary to make sound decisions in the best interests of the species.