HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

1	A concurrent resolution to urge the Wolf Management Advisory
2	Council and the Natural Resources Commission to authorize, and the
3	Department of Natural Resources to organize, wolf hunting and
4	trapping as part of the state's wolf management efforts beginning
5	in 2022.
6	Whereas, Gray wolves in Michigan have been protected under the
7	federal Endangered Species Act since 1974. At that time, gray
8	wolves were in danger of going extinct and needed the special
9	protection provided by the act to aid their recovery; and
10	Whereas, The federal government removed the gray wolf from the
11	federal Endangered Species list effective January 4, 2021. Gray
12	wolves have made a remarkable recovery from near extinction.
13	Michigan's current gray wolf population of almost 700 wolves

- 1 exceeds by over three times the number of wolves biologists
- 2 consider necessary to maintain a healthy population in the state.
- 3 Michigan's wolf population has met all federal recovery goals for
- 4 delisting both in terms of number of wolves and the stability of
- 5 those numbers for many years; and
- 6 Whereas, The state of Michigan is now responsible for managing
- 7 its gray wolf population, and Department of Natural Resources
- 8 officials stated as recently as the summer of 2020 that their
- 9 survey results show that Michigan's wolf population has recovered.
- 10 Wolves in Michigan achieved the minimum sustainable population goal
- 11 of 200 wolves for five consecutive years in 2004 and have since
- 12 surpassed state and federal population recovery goals for nearly 20
- 13 years; and
- 14 Whereas, Managed hunting and trapping in the state is a viable
- 15 means of ensuring stable wolf population numbers. Management allows
- 16 the wolf population to be kept at levels that ensure the overall
- 17 survival of the animal but limit potential wolf and human
- 18 conflicts; and
- 19 Whereas, Michigan has an active and legitimate wolf management
- 20 plan in place that was updated in 2015. While we commend the
- 21 department for beginning the process of updating this plan again
- 22 and commend the Natural Resources Commission for setting a plan
- 23 update deadline of the end of 2021, there is no statutory
- 24 requirement or precedent to delay a 2022 wolf hunt while the plan
- 25 is reviewed and updated. Neither is there a requirement for a
- 26 statewide public attitude survey or study to occur prior to a
- 27 hunting season; and
- Whereas, The law is clear that the commission should, to the
- 29 greatest extent practicable, utilize principles of sound scientific

- 1 management in making decisions regarding the taking of game; now,
- 2 therefore, be it
- 3 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
- 4 concurring), That we urge the Wolf Management Advisory Council and
- 5 the Natural Resources Commission to authorize, and the Department
- 6 of Natural Resources to organize, wolf hunting and trapping as part
- 7 of the state's wolf management efforts beginning in 2022; and be it
- 8 further
- 9 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
- 10 members of the Natural Resources Commission and the Wolf Management
- 11 Advisory Council and the Director of the Department of Natural
- 12 Resources.