

Officers: Wilfred Herrera, Jr., Chairman Governor Phillip A. Perez, Vice-Chair David M. Toledo, Secretary

October 5, 2021

Acoma

The Honorable Deb Haaland

Secretary

Cochiti

Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, N.W.

Isleta

Washington DC 20240

Jemez

Re: Request for Relisting of the Gray Wolf as Endangered or Threatened

Laguna

Dear Secretary Haaland:

Nambe

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

Pojoaque

Sandia

San Felipe

San Ildefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

Taos

Tesuque

Ysleta Del Sur

Zia

Zuni

Sincerely,

All Pueblo Council of Governors

On behalf of the All Pueblo Council of Governors, I am writing to bring to your attention the immediate threat facing the gray wolf as the result of states enacting anti-wolf policies that are, and present, the real potential of decimating wolf populations, and urge you to immediately act upon the emergency petition filed on May 26, 2021, to relist the Gray Wolf as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Just as important, we also call on you to exercise existing authority to list the gray wolf as such on an emergency basis. Emergency listing is a temporary measure that ensures immediate protection and expires 240 days following the publication date. This 240-day pause will allow the federal government to engage in proper and meaningful consultation with tribes.

Regrettably, without engaging in the required consultation with Indian Country, the prior administration delisted the Gray Wolf from the endangered species list, putting the wolf's tenuous recovery at risk. Not only did the federal government further erode tribal sovereignty by not consulting with Indian Country, this action by the federal government silences our collective voices - Native voices - in determining wolf management policies on our lands without giving a thought to our interests, sacred ceremonies, and culture. Tribes should have the opportunity to be free in developing and implementing culturally sensitive wolf population management programs. By allowing tribes a seat at the table, through meaningful consultation, such solutions are possible.

Native peoples are rooted in the land. The rocks and soil that form our landscapes, and the plants and animals, including the gray wolf, that live upon them, are central to our belief systems and make up the fabric that ties our communities together. We ask that you act to protect the gray wolf on an emergency basis and then establish a proper consultation process

with Tribal Nations.

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Cc:

Acoma Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

Cochiti Tommy Beaudreau, Deputy Secretary

Isleta Martha Williams, Principal Deputy Director, Fish & Wildlife Service

Jemez Darryl LaCounte, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Elizabeth Washburn, Special Assistant to the President for Native Affairs

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