



June 5, 2024

Representative Elizabeth Storer
PO Box 7974
Jackson, WY 83002

RE: TRW Treatment of Predators Working Group

Dear Representative Storer,

Thank you for your invitation to participate on the Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources (TRW) Committee's working group on wolves/predators.

I believe the Wyoming Legislature is the correct leader for thoughtful legislative reform around this topic. I offer the following considerations for you and the working group as these discussions take shape.

Solutions to Wyoming problems should come from Wyoming people. This working group is made up of stakeholders representing the diverse perspectives of those experienced in predator management, agriculture and wildlife. These individuals, along with our engaged constituency, bring the voice of Wyoming to inform your next steps. The incident you are attempting to address and the associated behavior is neither predator control nor wolf management nor condoned by Wyoming people. I believe you know this to be true.

Therefore, I encourage the working group to have narrow, focused conversations on wanton animal cruelty. Punish unacceptable behavior and deter acts of animal cruelty without interfering with the ability to manage predators. Any effort should uphold Wyoming's values of private property rights and our well-established heritage of conscientious management of our remarkable wildlife.

Furthermore, I urge you to resist the temptation to be influenced by calls to make sweeping changes based on threats to boycott Wyoming or mischaracterizations of Wyoming people. As you understand, the substantial successes of Wyoming's history and approach to wildlife management has not been based in broad, emotional, or reactionary proposals which are unlikely to lead to satisfactory outcomes – they will only erode the tools we have to protect livestock and proven methods to manage wildlife.

My office will monitor the working group and the TRW Committee as you work to address inhumane treatment of predators. For questions, please contact Sara DiRienzo, my policy advisor for wildlife, available at sara.dirienzo1@wyo.gov.

Thank you for undertaking this effort to address animal cruelty.

Sincerely,



Mark Gordon
Governor

MG:sd:kh

cc: Senator Wendy Schuler, Co-Chairman, Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources
Representative Sandy Newsome, Co-Chairman, Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources
Sara DiRienzo, Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Gordon