



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

10A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: February 13, 2024

Title of Item: Approve Letter to Governor Walz

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Jessica Seibert		Department: Administration
Presenter (Name and Title): Jessica Seibert, County Administrator		Estimated Time Needed: 5 Min.
Summary of Issue: Please see the attached letter drafted to Governor Walz regarding wolf population management concerns.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: 		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve the Board chair to sign and send the attached letter to Governor Walz.		
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		



AITKIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Aitkin, MN 56431

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Fax: 218-927-7374

February 13, 2024

Honorable Tim Walz
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Wolf Population Management

Dear Governor Walz:

I am writing you on behalf of the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners to share concerns about the management of the gray wolf population in Minnesota. While we understand the importance of protecting this iconic species, it is equally critical to address the challenges with their increasing numbers.

Increasing populations of wolves can lead to various consequences including predation on livestock, predation on deer populations, and conflict with humans. These issues not only pose threats to the livelihood of local Aitkin County farmers but affect local hunters, tourism, and family pets.

We urge you to prioritize the development and implementation of a management plan that strikes a balance between conservation and addressing the negative impacts of an increasing wolf population on local Aitkin County citizens.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

J. Mark Wedel
Board Chair
Aitkin County

CC: Bret Sample, Board Vice Chair
Laurie Westerlund, District 2 Commissioner
Travis Leiviska, District 3 Commissioner
Michael Kearney, District 5 Commissioner
MN House Environment and Natural Resources Finance & Policy Chair
MN Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Chair