

**Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs**

**08/21/2025 Upon Adjournment**

**SB25B-005 Reallocate DNR Wolf Funding to Health Ins Enter**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
<p>Ryan Muff Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee,</p> <p>I come from a hunting family and background. I'd like to continue the family tradition for many generations. My daughter just got her first. 22! Please take an honest look at the science and set aside the calls from lobbyists.</p> <p>Honor the work of the volunteer citizens who spent two years on the SAG and TWG, the citizens of CO, CPW's wildlife professionals and democracy by OPPOSING Robert's bill to defund the wolf reintroduction. This bill would effectively end further wolf reintroduction thus undermining the short- and long-term viability of Colorado's wolf population also exacerbating livestock conflict. The current population of 15 reintroduced wolves, which includes 4 pairs that have formed families and have pups, is wholly insufficient to enable the genetic diversity and population numbers that would enable survivability – in fact, without additional reintroductions, Colorado's wolf population may vanish.</p> <p>I have heard the idea that this bill would merely "pause" reintroductions, but we know this is a bold-faced lie based on Senator Roberts comments at the recent Farm Bureau Meeting where he said this was an opportunity to wait for a new governor and stop the reintroduction.</p> <p>In this time when our public lands are under threat, protect our wildlife! Grey Wolves are a keystone species, arguably the most important species to our North American ecosystems! The science is clear: Colorado needs wolves. Wolves increase ungulate herd health, biodiversity, and the health of the entire ecosystem! Wolves will bring money to the rural areas of CO through tourism, Yellowstone National Park's Wolf Viewing alone generates over \$82 million/year! The entire restoration of the grey wolf into Yellowstone cost about \$30 million, a cost that has been paid back many, many times over. In Colorado in 2024-25, the wolf program cost the state \$3,457,613. With only 15 reintroduced wolves surviving in Colorado the Robert's bill proposes to abandon the</p> <p>wolf recovery project to "save" \$250k only to lose potentially tens of millions in tourism</p> <p>revenue for Colorado's rural communities.</p> <p>Protect our wolves, protect our wild lands, protect democracy! ONLY YOU can help us!</p>

<p>Diane Spelman Against themselves</p>	<p>My name is Diane Spelman and I live in zip code 80132. We need our apex predators to allow for a healthy ecosystem. The voters have already said that we want wolf reintroduction, please honor that. Please vote NO on this dishonest bill.</p>
<p>Rose Pray Against themselves</p>	<p>I want to be on record to say NO on Robert's bill to reallocate wolf funding to the health insurance enterprise. This move would gut the wolf restoration program, squander years of hard work by Parks and Wildlife and key stakeholders, and most importantly, the bill violates the will of Coloradans who voted for wolf restoration in 2020.</p>
<p>Elise Lowe-Vaughn Against Rewilding America Now</p>	<p>Honorable Legislators,</p> <p>My name is Elise Lowe-Vaughn, and I work for Rewilding America Now, a national environmental NGO dedicated to restoring native wildlife and ecosystems. We've spent years advancing science-based conservation in Colorado and across the country. On behalf of RAN and as a Colorado resident, I urge you to reject Senate Bill 25B-005.</p> <p>This bill would gut Colorado's wolf recovery program—the very program mandated by voters in 2020. That democratic decision followed years of debate, and it entrusted Colorado Parks and Wildlife, not politicians, to lead with science. To overturn it now is a direct attack on both democracy and science.</p> <p>The facts are stark. CPW's plan requires 30–50 wolves over 3–5 years to build a genetically diverse, self-sustaining population of 150–200 wolves. Yet today, only 15 wolves survive in Colorado, from just four breeding pairs. If we halt reintroductions now, this population will collapse. That means not only wasted years of work and millions of taxpayer dollars—but also the loss of wolves from Colorado once again.</p> <p>The financial argument for this bill does not hold water. It diverts just \$264,000—a quarter of one percent of the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise's \$100 million budget. Cutting \$264,000 here destroys a program that could generate tens of millions annually for rural Colorado through wolf tourism. We know this from Yellowstone: a \$30 million investment in wolf restoration there produces \$82 million every year for local communities. In contrast, abandoning Colorado's program to "save" \$250,000 is fiscal malpractice.</p> <p>Environmentally, the benefits are profound. Wolves are a keystone species that restore balance to deer and elk populations, protect biodiversity, and even help slow</p>

	<p>climate change through forest regeneration. They also help curb chronic wasting disease, which is spreading unchecked in Colorado and threatens to devastate our deer and elk herds. Wolves also contribute to wildfire resilience. Overabundant elk and deer strip young aspens and willows, leaving dry, brushy landscapes that fuel hotter, more destructive fires. By keeping ungulate populations in check, wolves allow healthy forests and riparian areas to regenerate. Creating moister, more diverse habitats creates natural firebreaks that help by retaining water on the land and reducing the severity of wildfires. In a state already suffering a devastating fire season, removing wolves undercuts one of the most cost-effective natural defenses we have.</p> <p>As for livestock conflicts—these are preventable. Decades of evidence show that non-lethal coexistence tools work. Colorado even has a dedicated fund to help ranchers implement them. We can support both wolves and agriculture without dismantling recovery.</p> <p>This bill is scientifically reckless, fiscally irresponsible, and democratically unjust. It would erase years of work, silence the will of Colorado voters, and sacrifice the future of our public lands.</p> <p>On behalf of Rewilding America Now, and as someone who is devoted to science-based wildlife policy, I urge you: stand with the voters, stand with the science, and stand with Colorado’s future. Reject Senate Bill 25B-005.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Becca Burkhalter Amend themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee,</p> <p>My name is Rebecca Burkhalter, I live in zip code 80910. I come from a hunting family and my husband comes from a ranching background. I earned my Ecology degree from The University of North Texas.</p> <p>Honor the work of the volunteer citizens who spent two years on the SAG and TWG, the citizens of CO, CPW's wildlife professionals and democracy by OPPOSING Robert's bill to defund the wolf reintroduction. This bill would effectively end further wolf reintroduction thus undermining the short- and long-term viability of Colorado’s wolf population also exacerbating livestock conflict. The current population of 15 reintroduced wolves, which includes 4 pairs that have formed families and have pups, is wholly insufficient to enable the genetic diversity and population numbers that would enable survivability – in fact, without additional reintroductions, Colorado’s wolf population may vanish.</p> <p>I have heard the idea that this bill would merely "pause" the wolf reintroduction. Because of Senator Robert's comments at the Farmer's Bureau Meeting about how this pause would give them a chance to get a new governor who would not be as friendly to wolves as Polis has lets US know that this is a bold-faced lie.</p>

	<p>In this time when our public lands are under threat, protect our wildlife! Grey Wolves are a keystone species, arguably the most important species to our North American ecosystems! The science is clear: Colorado needs wolves. Wolves increase ungulate herd health, biodiversity, and the health of the entire ecosystem! Wolves will bring money to the rural areas of CO through tourism, Yellowstone National Park's Wolf Viewing alone generates over \$82 million/year! The entire restoration of the grey wolf into Yellowstone cost about \$30 million, a cost that has been paid back many, many times over. In Colorado in 2024-25, the wolf program cost the state \$3,457,613. With only 15 reintroduced wolves surviving in Colorado the Robert's bill proposes to abandon the</p> <p>wolf recovery project to "save" \$250k only to lose potentially tens of millions in tourism</p> <p>revenue for Colorado's rural communities.</p> <p>Protect our wolves, protect our wild lands, protect democracy! ONLY YOU can help us!</p> <p>Please contact me via phone or email.</p> <p>Rebecca Burkhalter RebeccaSueBurkhalter@gmail.com (469) 426-7843</p>
<p>Kenneth Ramsey Against themselves</p>	<p>Cutting funding for wolf reintroduction now increases the future costs of completion and threatens the success of this work. Previous wolf hater maneuvers have unnecessarily increased the cost of this effort already. Cutting funding now will not help the budget and will harm the wolves. There is no doubt that having a self-sustaining wolf population yields huge economic and environmental benefits. Opponents to wolves fail to acknowledge these benefits. Colorado Parks and Wildlife has worked long and hard to reach this level of restoration. Stopping now undermines all this work. Climate change with fires, floods and unpredictable precipitation threaten all Colorado ecosystems. Restoring wolves is a important and necessary step to protect Colorado ecosystems for everyone in Colorado.</p> <p>Disabling our voter approved wolf reintroduction program would be an awful precedent that benefits no one.</p>
<p>Brandon Morrison Amend themselves</p>	<p>I and a hunter and a farmer, I come from a family of hunters, farmers, and ranchers. I DO NOT support pausing the reintroduction of the wolves to Colorado. Having wolves on our land is very important to the ecosystem. Pausing this effort now will be a detriment to the wolves already here and will make all of our efforts, time, and money spent be in vain. PLEASE DO NOT PAUSE THE WOLF REINTRODUCTION!</p>
<p>Susan Sommers Against</p>	<p>THE CITIZENS OF COLORADO WANT WOLVES AND WE VOTED FOR WOLVES!!!! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TRY AND OVERTURN THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO FOR RANCHERS!!</p>

<p>themselves</p>	
<p>Kent Abernethy Against Headwaters Group/ Colorado Chapter Sierra Club</p>	<p>This bill is an a transparent attempt to undermine the Wolf Reintroduction Program. Please send a message this type of political maneuvering is a waste of time for all concerned. There is real work to be done. Allow CPW to do its work and its mission. Everyone needs to cooperate like the SAG in order to achieve successful reintroduction. Politics is being used for one special and powerful interest group - livestock producers and that is wrong.</p>
<p>Jon Gustafson Against themselves</p>	<p>This is going against the VOTE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO! We have voted, we want wolves, stop trying to shut it down by backdoor methods! The last time I checked this was STILL A DEMOCRACY!</p>
<p>Tierra Bishop Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee,</p> <p>My name is Tierra Bishop, I live in zip code 80905. I come from a hunting family and I believe in sustainable agricultural practices that support the health of our land and ecology in the short and the long-term.</p> <p>Honor the work of the volunteer citizens who spent two years on the SAG and TWG, the citizens of CO, CPW's wildlife professionals and democracy by OPPOSING Robert's bill to defund the wolf reintroduction. This bill would effectively end further wolf reintroduction thus undermining the short- and long-term viability of Colorado's wolf population also exacerbating livestock conflict. The current population of 15 reintroduced wolves, which includes 4 pairs that have formed families and have pups, is wholly insufficient to enable the genetic diversity and population numbers that would enable survivability – in fact, without additional reintroductions, Colorado's wolf population may vanish.</p> <p>I have heard the idea that this bill would merely "pause" reintroductions, but we know this is a bold-faced lie based on Senator Roberts comments at the recent Farm Bureau Meeting where he said this was an opportunity to wait for a new governor and stop the reintroduction.</p> <p>In this time when our public lands are under threat and our ecosystems are collapsing, we need you to protect our wildlife! Grey Wolves are a keystone species, arguably the most important species to our North American ecosystems! The science is clear: Colorado needs wolves. Wolves increase ungulate herd health, biodiversity, and the health of the entire ecosystem! Wolves will bring money to the rural areas of CO through tourism - Yellowstone National Park's Wolf Viewing alone generates over \$82 million/year! The entire restoration of the grey wolf into Yellowstone cost about \$30 million, a cost that has been paid back many, many times over. In Colorado in 2024-25, the wolf program cost the state \$3,457,613. With only 15 reintroduced wolves surviving in Colorado, the Robert's bill proposes to abandon the</p>

	<p>wolf recovery project to "save" \$250k only to lose potentially tens of millions in tourism revenue for Colorado's rural communities.</p> <p>Please stand for the health, safety, and long-term viability of our ecosystems and our citizens--they are interconnected. Protect our wolves, protect our wild lands, protect democracy! ONLY YOU can help us!</p> <p>Tierra Bishop tbchristine30@gmail.com</p>
<p>Renee Faulkner Against themselves</p>	<p>I strongly oppose this bill to defund and effectively end the reintroduction of wolves to our state. I have watched over the last 50 years, invasive cattle destroy our public land and forests. This government is structured to support the cattle corporations and public grazing as well as the small rancher. Every wildlife bill is structured to benefit and enhance cattle and annihilate wildlife. Since they have no voice other than mine, I need to let you know. Our wildlife is in peril, our house is on fire!!! 🔥</p> <p>The Robert's bill to defund the wolf project is another match to the flame. When will you people wake up?</p> <p>Many citizens have spent countless time and money to fix some of the misguided initiatives from our lawmakers. Their work is based on Science and expertise from some of the most credible organizations. Our own Colorado citizens have voted for the wolf projects and feel very strongly about all wildlife. Our citizens demand our government start protecting our public lands. Our citizens demand that our government stop train wrecking our public lands for profit. Our citizens demand there be accountability and responsibility on the part of all agencies, who oversee our public land. Turning a blind eye to the root cause and then maintaining the statue quo will not longer be acceptable. As a stakeholder I am furious and outraged. Refusing to acknowledge supporting documentation of scientific research that are red flag warnings is not going to cut it. Honor our citizens voices not the corporate rancher, honor the citizens choice not the greedy billionaire's that we subsidize. Stop turning our public lands into feedlots and industrial parks. Recognize that we have a responsibility to future generations by being good stewards of the land we love. I strongly disagree with the Robert's bill, it is single minded, with no forward thinking. Total disregard for the future and the wishes of the citizens.</p>
<p>Marije terEllen Against themselves</p>	<p>As a voter in the State of Colorado, I urge you not to cut funding for our wolf restoration effort.</p> <p>Coloradans voted for restoration.</p> <p>Please consider the interests of all citizens, not just special interests.</p> <p>Thank you, Marije terEllen</p>
<p>Frank Lilly</p>	<p>This is a back door attempt to subvert the will of the voters during a special session that was called by the Governor to address budgetary issues. There is not currently a</p>

Against themselves	sustainable population of wolves in Colorado. Pausing the program for a year would doom it permanently.
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LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

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## Wolves are Part of Our Beautiful State.

1 message

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**Gerry Attrick** <pigletu@hotmail.com>

Fri, Aug 22, 2025 at 1:18 PM

To: "committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov" <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

And very useful to every Western State.

We need to welcome them, and indemnify ranchers for their losses.

COOLORADO CAN DO IT, for a healthier DO !

Nick Bacria,  
Longmont, CO 80504