



To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

Every year, more than 2 million people visit Michigan's zoos and aquariums. From young to old, families, school groups, and tourists are all given a first class experience. Many are seeing exotic and unique animals for the first time. What is universally true is that almost none of the people that visit the zoo will ever have the chance to see these animals in the wild or in their indigenous habitats.

Some of the most popular animals to see at the zoo are the large carnivores. They fascinate visitors with their powerful yet graceful movements. They instill awe and respect for the ever amazing animal kingdom.

Unfortunately in Michigan, zoo visitors are prohibited by law from seeing the young offspring of the large carnivores currently in our zoos. That's because in Michigan, **it is illegal to breed large carnivores**, even in zoos participating in national and international conservation breeding programs.

In 2000, the Legislature rightly amended the Large Carnivore Act to tighten up safety measures in the act. Unfortunately they mistakenly forgot to include an exemption that would allow accredited zoos to breed large carnivores.

This gap in the law has taken away the ability for our Michigan Zoos to fully participate in programs that will ensure the survival of some of these large carnivore species, protect the purity of their bloodlines, and provide a complete zoo experience that visitors in nearly every other state enjoy. Accredited facilities participating in these scientifically based breeding programs may also lose their large carnivores to zoos in other states if Michigan's laws regarding the breeding of large carnivores in these establishments are not remedied.

We would like your help in correcting this oversight by a previous legislature. Rep. Rob Verheulen from Kent County has Introduced HB5163 that will remedy this situation. His bill would provide fair and prudent standards that if met, would allow a properly managed zoo to participate in a science based cooperative conservation breeding program for large carnivores.

As a member of the House Regulation and Reform Committee, please vote for this bill and assist in its passage in the House.

Thank you for your consideration-

Lori Cook- Children and Family Services



To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

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As a member of the House Regulation and Reform Committee, please vote for this bill and assist in its passage in the House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Schowalter".

Tim Schowalter

President, Pioneer Construction

January 29, 2014

Michigan House Committee
Regulatory Reform Chairman and Members

In 2000, the Michigan Legislature amended the Large Carnivore Act to tighten up safety measures in the act. Unfortunately, they omitted an exemption for AZA accredited zoos. This omission has resulted in the inability of Michigan zoos, which are members of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), to fully participate in species survival programs.

Species survival programs ensure the survival of some of the large carnivore species and protect the purity of their bloodlines. Accredited facilities participating in scientifically based breeding programs may lose their large carnivores to zoos in other states if Michigan's laws regarding the breeding of large carnivores these zoos are not remedied.

We would like your help in correcting this oversight by a previous legislature. Rep. Rob Verheulen from Kent County has introduced HB5163 that will remedy this situation. His bill would provide fair and prudent standards that would allow a properly managed zoo to participate in a science based, cooperative conservation breeding program for large carnivores.

As a member of the House Regulation and Reform Committee, please vote for this bill and assist in its passage in the House.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy Washburn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nancy Washburn
Volunteer, John Ball Zoo

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

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As a member of the House Regulation and Reform Committee, please vote for this bill and assist in its passage in the House.

*We appreciate your support
in this matter.*

*Lee Adersmond
John Ball Zoo Volunteer*

February 3, 2014

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

Every year, more than 2 million people visit Michigan's zoos and aquariums. Zoos are one of the most popular destinations for families that want to spend the day together. For most, this will be the only way they will ever see these magnificent animals because, what is universally true is that almost none of the people that visit the zoo will ever have the chance to see these animals in the wild.

Some of the most anticipated animals to see at the zoo are the large carnivores. Lions, tigers, bears. They fascinate visitors with their powerful yet graceful movements. They instill awe and respect for the ever amazing animal kingdom.

Unfortunately in Michigan, zoo visitors are prohibited by law from seeing the young offspring of the large carnivores in our zoos. That's because in Michigan, **it is illegal to breed large carnivores**, even in zoos participating in national and international conservation breeding programs.

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Respectfully,



Krys Bylund
69 Campau Circle
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3314
301-562-0777 tel 301-562-0888 fax
www.aza.org

January 30, 2014

The Honorable...

RE: Michigan Large Carnivore Act

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in support of the five AZA-accredited zoos in Michigan which are committed to leadership in animal care, animal welfare, conservation, education and to the public safety of the more than 2 million people who visit AZA-accredited zoos in the State each year. These accredited institutions are seeking important correction of an error in Michigan's Large Carnivore Act. The Act was put in place to help protect the people of Michigan as well as the well-being of animals by restricting the holding of dangerous exotic carnivores to only those facilities which can appropriately provide for their care and maintain them in safe environments. It is the position of the five AZA accredited zoos in Michigan (The Detroit Zoo, the Binder Park Zoo, the John Ball Zoo, the Potter Park Zoo and the Children's Zoo at Celebration Square) and the AZA that while the conditions for institutions to achieve exempt status should remain unchanged in the Act, prohibition of breeding must be corrected to allow exempted institutions to participate fully in the conservation breeding of large carnivores. .

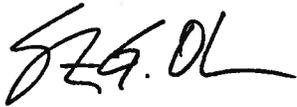
AZA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of accredited zoos and aquariums in the areas of animal care and husbandry, conservation, education, science and recreation. AZA's 223 accredited zoos and aquariums annually see more than 182 million visitors, collectively generate more than \$21 billion in annual economic activity, and support more than 204,000 jobs. Over the last five years, AZA-accredited institutions supported more than 3,000 field conservation and research projects with \$160,000,000 annually in more than 100 countries. In addition, AZA and its member institutions work in concert with Congress, the Federal agencies, conservation organizations, the private sector and the general public to conserve our world's wildlife.

The Act as currently written erroneously includes captive breeding of listed species among the list of prohibited activities. This error must be corrected for exempted institutions which are part of bona fide cooperative conservation breeding programs, which in North America currently only include the AZA Species Survival Plan (SSP) program. AZA pioneered and established the SSP program, a long-term plan involving genetically diverse breeding, habitat preservation, public education, field conservation and supportive research to ensure survival for many threatened and endangered species from around the world. Michigan's AZA-accredited zoos are part of a collaborative global conservation agenda, contributing to the conservation of species and nature in direct and indirect ways. Several of them have been leaders in breeding of large carnivores for many years.

Policies for safety and security are critical to ensuring public safety. AZA accreditation requires that institutions have adequate staffing and that staff are adequately educated and trained. It requires that institutions have a written risk management plan, written emergency response plans for fire, weather/environment, human injury and animal escape, and that they conduct at least one emergency drill for each type of emergency each year. Many accredited institutions go far beyond this requirement, for example the Detroit Zoo conducted ?? emergency response drills in 2013. AZA requires that institutions have emergency communication systems, including alarm systems to notify staff in the event of injury, attack or escape, as well as written protocols describing emergency response protocols (including response times) of local police or other emergency responders. These standards are critical to ensuring the safety of guests to our facilities and the people living around them.

The five AZA-accredited zoos in Michigan ask their lawmakers to correct the mistake in state legislation that prevents them from continuing to be fully participating partners in responsible, scientific conservation breeding programs of large carnivores. Their important roles in the education and recreation of Michigan's residents and tourists, and in the conservation of species around the world, must be sustained so they can continue to be fully engaged as active partners in scientific cooperative breeding programs.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.G. Olson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steven G. Olson
Vice President, Federal Relations

January 31, 2014

Michigan House Committee
Regulatory Reform
Hugh D. Crawford, Chair

Dear Chair and Members:

Every year, more than 2 million people visit Michigan's zoos and aquariums. From young to old, families, school groups, and tourists are all given a first class experience. Many are seeing exotic and unique animals for the first time. What is universally true is that almost none of the people that visit the zoo will ever have the chance to see these animals in the wild or in their indigenous habitats.

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In 2000, the Legislature rightly amended the Large Carnivore Act to tighten up safety measures in the act. Unfortunately they mistakenly forgot to include an exemption that would allow accredited zoos to breed large carnivores.

This gap in the law has taken away the ability for our Michigan Zoos to fully participate in programs that will ensure the survival of some of these large carnivore species, protect the purity of their bloodlines, and provide a complete zoo experience that visitors in nearly every other state enjoy. Accredited facilities participating in these scientifically based breeding programs may also lose their large carnivores to zoos in other states if Michigan's laws regarding the breeding of large carnivores in these establishments are not remedied.

We would like your help in correcting this oversight by a previous legislature. Rep. Rob Verheulen from Kent County has introduced HB5163 that will remedy this situation. His bill would provide fair and prudent standards that if met, would allow a properly managed zoo to participate in a science based cooperative conservation breeding program for large carnivores.

As a member of the House Regulation and Reform Committee, please vote for this bill and assist in its passage in the House.

Jim Swarts
717 E Fulton St
Grand Rapids MI 49503

1/31/14

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

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Respectfully,
Anthony Dennis

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Very truly yours,



Michael Curtis

January 28, 2014

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

I have been a volunteer at John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids, Michigan for over 28 years. Thousands of people visit our zoo each year, many from out of state. For many children, a visit to our zoo is the first time they get to see and touch a live farm animal, like a goat, pig or chicken, or a local wild animal, such as a rabbit, owl, or snake. The big attraction at zoos, however, is always the large carnivores. These animals are graceful, powerful, and awe-inspiring. And most people will never have the opportunity to see these incredible animals in the wild. Zoos make this possible.

The most popular carnivores, in every zoo, are the young ones. Everyone loves baby animals. This puts Michigan zoos at a big disadvantage. Visitors to Michigan zoos are prohibited by law from seeing the young offspring of large carnivores. In Michigan, **it is illegal to breed large carnivores**, even in a zoo that is participating in national and international conservation breeding programs.

In 2000, the Legislature rightly amended the Large Carnivore Act to tighten up safety measures in the act. Unfortunately they mistakenly forgot to include an exemption that would allow accredited zoos to breed large carnivores.

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As a member of the House Regulation and Reform Committee, please vote for this bill and assist in its passage in the House.

Cyndi Laird

January 29, 2014

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and Members:

As a volunteer at a Michigan zoo, I see first hand the powerful effect that zoos have on visitors. In most cases, schools and families have their first experience with animals threatened with extinction at an accredited zoo.

Often, the most popular exhibits at zoos are those of the large carnivores. Visitors are fascinated by their size and their struggle to survive. Zoos take advantage of this awe to share the ideas that all things matter in the world, that human behavior changes plant and animal habitats, and without each and every animal or plant, our earth is damaged.

In 2000, the Legislature passed a law aimed at preventing unsupervised roadside animal parks from operating without safety measures. Michigan residents applauded this measure, but unfortunately a mistake was recently discovered. Accredited zoos were exempted from every section of the law except that which bans breeding of large carnivores.

This mistake prevents accredited Michigan zoos from participating in breeding programs which search for the optimal gene pool in cooperation with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Moreover, Michigan zoos may lose their large carnivores to zoos in other states if the mistake is not corrected, because the AZA is only interested in scientifically based breeding programs.

Please support HB5163, introduced by Rep. Rob Verheulen, which will exempt accredited zoos from the ban on breeding large carnivores. Every last animal, plant, and snowflake on earth matters.

Nancy Heineman, John Ball Zoo Volunteer
16607 Port Sheldon Rd
West Olive, MI 49460



Sunny Sjaarda

4822 Havana s.w.

Wy. Mi. 45909

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

I am a volunteer and board member at the John Ball Zoo and very supportive in correctecting the oversight in the wording of the Large Carnivore Act. They mistakenly forgot to include an exemption that would allow accredited zoos to breed large carnivores in Michigan Zoos.

Michigan Zoos and Aquariums give millions of families the chance to see exiotic and unique animals for the first time. Not everyone can travel to see animals in the wild if the animals are still there.

This gap in the law has taken away the ability for our Mi. Zoos to fully participate in programs that will ensure the survival of some of these large carnivore species, protect the purity of their bloodlines, and provide a complete zoo experience that visitors in nearly every other state enjoy.

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Thank you,

Sunny Sjaarda

1/29/2014

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

Every year, more than 2 million people visit Michigan's zoos and aquariums including us and our three children. From young to old, families, school groups, and tourists are all given a first class experience. Many are seeing exotic and unique animals for the first time. What is universally true is that almost none of the people that visit the zoo will ever have the chance to see these animals in the wild or in their indigenous habitats.

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Sincerely,
The Hornbeck Family
Jon, Tracey, Jacob 12, Matthew 9, Ryan 5 (please)



City of Grand Rapids, Michigan

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

GEORGE K. HEARTWELL
MAYOR

January 28, 2014

Regulatory Reform Committee
c/o The Hon. Hugh D. Crawford, Chair
Michigan State Representative
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Chair Crawford and members of the committee:

The City of Grand Rapids is privileged to be home to John Ball Zoo. The mission of the Zoo is to advance public education on the need for wildlife conservation and preservation and to support the captive propagation of the wild and endangered animal species.

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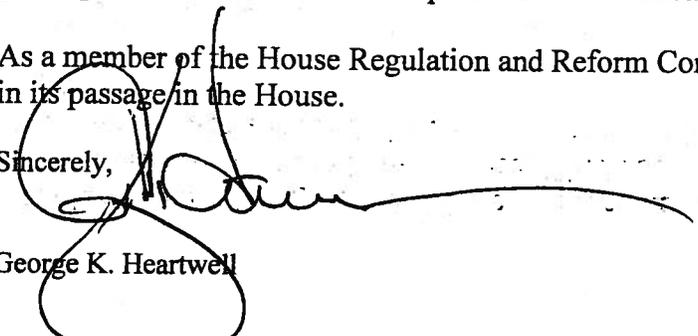
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George K. Heartwell

January 29, 2014

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Thank you,

Geralyn M. Pasi
1845 Berrywood Drive SE
Lowell, MI 49331

JACKIE FAZEKAS
2185 LEONARD STREET, N.E.
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49505

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Sincerely,

Jackie Fazekas

Deliah A. Fowler
1304 Suncrest Drive, N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616-285-0768

January 29, 2014

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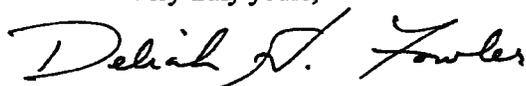
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This gap in the law has taken away the ability for our Michigan Zoos to fully participate in programs that will ensure the survival of some of these large carnivore species, protect the purity of their bloodlines, and provide a complete zoo experience that visitors in nearly every other state enjoy. Accredited facilities participating in these scientifically based breeding programs may also lose their large carnivores to zoos in other states if Michigan's laws regarding the breeding of large carnivores in these establishments are not remedied.

We would like your help in correcting this oversight by a previous legislature. Rep. Rob VerHeulen from Kent County has Introduced HB 5163 that will remedy this situation. His bill would provide fair and prudent standards that if met, would allow a properly managed zoo to participate in a science based cooperative conservation breeding program for large carnivores.

As a member of the House Regulation and Reform Committee, please vote for this bill and assist in its passage in the House.

Very truly yours,



Deliah A. Fowler

January 29, 2014

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

Every year, more than 2 million people visit Michigan's zoos and aquariums. From young to old, families, school groups, and tourists are all given a first class experience. Many are seeing exotic and unique animals for the first time. What is universally true is that almost none of the people that visit the zoo will ever have the chance to see these animals in the wild or in their indigenous habitats.

Some of the most popular animals to see at the zoo are the large carnivores. They fascinate visitors with their powerful yet graceful movements. They instill awe and respect for the ever amazing animal kingdom.

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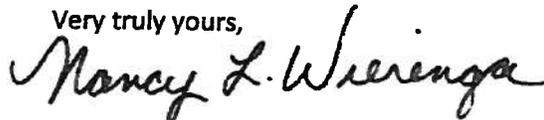
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Very truly yours,



Nancy L. Wierenga
2355 Elderwood Drive, NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49544
(616) 784-6679

Hillary Wytcherley
2914 Green Meadow, #8
Jenison, MI 49428

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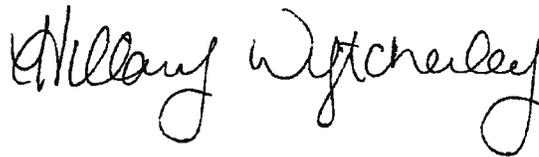
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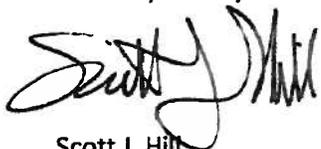
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As a member of the House Regulation and Reform Committee, please vote for this bill and assist in its passage in the House.

Thanks you for your attention to this important matter.



Scott J. Hill
1620 Springwind Dr SW
Byron Center, MI 49315

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

I want to talk about the Large Carnivore law. The reason I am writing this is because I think the coolest animals in zoos are the carnivores and I think it's very unfair that the law took that away. We have lost 97% of tigers in the last decade and do you really want tigers to go extinct.

My greatest memories came from the zoo and do you really want to end other kid's memories or not even let future kids know what tiger were.

Why don't you give carnivores back to zoos, the zoos can breed them, you can make a law to protect the carnivores, and if the zoos want send them into the wild. If the protecting law doesn't work the zoos can just leave them in their exhibits or you guys can just put security cameras where the zoos drop the carnivores off. I don't care if you don't do it that way just take the law away. Don't do it for me do for the animals. How would you like it if we were going extinct and the animals didn't let us breed and later we no longer exist? Animals have feelings too. Hopefully you change your mind about the law (please do).

Sincerely,
Itzel Mejia

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and Members:

I am in 6th grade and go to school at John Ball Zoo School in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I have been visiting the zoo as long as I can remember. Big carnivores are really cool. Although they can be somewhat threatening to humans, they are the animals I most admire.

The John Ball Zoo is getting three new tigers. The population of tigers is going down. There are less than 400 tigers out in the wild making them endangered. More than 90% of the world tiger population has gone down in the last decade.

So by taking these three tigers and taking care of them we can **help save the population!** That is why John Ball and other licensed zoos should be able to breed the tigers to help the population grow! So you need to change the law so we can help the population of large carnivores!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kendall".

Kendall Heckathorn

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

Over 2,296,000 people visit zoos annually. Most people prefer and enjoy large and exotic animals. Though what is true for almost all people visiting Michigan zoos is the fact they most likely will never get to see these exotic animals in the wild.

The most popular animals to see at the zoo are the large carnivores. They fascinate and amaze visitors of all age with their powerful yet graceful movements. They continue to amaze people due to the fact that they will probably not get to see one in the wild.

Unfortunately in Michigan it is prohibited by law for visitors to see young off spring of large carnivores. That is because in Michigan it is illegal to breed large carnivores, even in zoos that participate in national and international conservation breeding programs.

In 2000, the Legislature amended the Large Carnivore Act to ensure the safety of visitors to places, such as ranches, breeding animals for show and money.

We would like and need your help to correct this law and help save these endangered animals before it's too late. Rep. Rob Verheulen from Kent County has introduced HB5163 that will fix and help this situation. This bill will provide the ability for properly managed zoos to participate in a science based cooperative conservation breeding program for large carnivores.

As a member of the House Regulation and Reform Committee, please vote for this bill and assist in its passage in the House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ally S." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Allyson S. Zoo School Student

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory reform Chairman Crawford and members:

In Michigan there are five zoos with a USFWS Captive Bred permits. Those zoos are Binder Park Zoo, Detroit Park Zoo, and Children's Zoo at Celebration Square/Saginaw, Potter Park Zoo, and my current School/Zoo, John Ball Park zoo.

At John Ball Zoo there are bears, lions, snow leopards, cougars, and coming in the spring, tigers. We need to breed the animals because we are not doing it for profit; we have to get their population up. There are only 400 tigers, of the species we are getting left in the world. There aren't even enough to fill Kent County. That is what we are trying to get the law to allow breeding in large cats and carnivores.

Some people that come to zoos have never saw some of the animals that a zoo has. If the animals' species goes extinct it would make a huge impression. Some people will never get to know them. That would be terrible.

So I am asking today that would please kindly change the law so that we could breed our animals. That would enable us to breed our large carnivores and bears.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote for this bill and assist in its passage in the House.

Sincerely a John Ball Zoo school student,

Emily Hartwell

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members,

This letter is sent to you from a Grand Rapids John Ball Zoo School student. We are an environmental school located outside John Ball Zoo. It is an all-sixth grade school that only allows the smartest students from the district to attend. Here at Zoo School, we learn to respect and conserve nature. We have had many environment- related projects, such as our leaf collection project (where we learned to recognize most trees by just their leaves), our environmental plays (where we each researched environmental issues and are writing plays about them), eco-management (where we created a fake company to inspect a piece of land), and many more. My classmates and I are writing letters to support the amending of the Large Carnivore Act.

Each year, tens of thousands of people visit Michigan's zoos. They come to see exotic animals they will most likely not find in the wild.

Some of the most popular of these creatures are the large carnivores, such as lions, tigers and bears (no reference intended). But there is one problem. These large carnivores are prohibited from breeding because it's illegal for them to breed, even in credited zoos. Breeding in zoos can bring in many of the public, because who doesn't love baby tigers?

We are proposing that this law be amended so large carnivores may breed in credited zoos if they follow a science-based program. If the program is effective, there shouldn't be any issues.

In conclusion, this law was created to keep private owners from breeding their animals whenever and however they want, to keep things safe. I assure you, with credited zoos and the right guidelines safety will not be an issue.

Sincerely,

Adam

John Ball Zoo School Student.

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and Members:

Recently a law was passed that concerned what happens to large carnivores, such as bears, tigers, etc. Part of this law that is being focused on is the part that states that you cannot breed large carnivores in captivity. I can easily see that this might be helpful to some people because that stops part of exotic animal black marketing, and to some people who live next to people who own large carnivores might not want more in their area. But the main reason I oppose this law is because of its effect on zoos and the large carnivores themselves.

First off, some of these carnivores are endangered (some bears), and some of them (tigers, mostly Bengal tigers) are almost extinct. I will focus on the tigers. In around a century, about 97% of these tigers are dead. This law helps their extinction because it forbids them to mate in captivity, so while they die, not as many of them are being born.

I am a sixth-grade student at the John Ball Zoo School, and we are in spring adding three tigers in an exhibit. These tigers and others are parts of species in critical condition, and zoos like ours like to breed them to help keep up the population, even if it may be a minor help, if many zoos and people do this, the tigers might have a chance at at least getting out of critical and onto the endangered list, which is bad, but at least it would be better than their current condition.

Your law is stopping around 230 zoos from doing this, therefore your law is helping the tigers become extinct, in a way. Everyday people go to zoos all over to see these animals, and those millions of people wish to keep animals like tigers and bears in their zoo, but if this law continues, these bears and tigers might not be in the zoo much longer. Another reason is that babies make people come to zoos more because of their cuteness. In the fall I researched the Dwarf Caiman, and in the middle of that project the two caimans had a baby. This made me feel more like they were in the wild, because they were living with a child like in the wild.

Though the Dwarf Caiman is not a large carnivore, other people probably would feel the same way about the tigers or bears having babies, but with your law, zoos are not allowed to breed their animals, so many people might oppose this law for that very reason. The amendment that many zoos are putting together could be right in the middle for us. The amendment says that people may breed large carnivores if it is part of doing good, but that you still cannot breed them if you are doing so just to get money.

Please think about these reasons carefully, and I hope you change the law you formed and accept the amendment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anheles
Counrado

Student of John Ball Zoo School

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

I am aware of the law created in the year 2000 that bans the breeding of large, carnivorous animals that, if wild, would be considered dangerous to the community. The five main zoos are affected by this law. Binder park zoo, Detroit Zoo, John Ball Zoo, Potter Park Zoo, and the Children's Zoo at Celebration Square in Saginaw all have what the government would consider a large carnivore.

People love coming to zoos every year to see the animals with their families and friends. They enjoy all of the big carnivorous animals. But what would happen if the zoo's big cats died and the zoo couldn't afford to buy more of them? That is why the zoos of Michigan should be able to breed their big carnivores.

Some people have never seen these carnivorous and might not because most of the carnivores are threatened or even endangered so breeding them is the only way of getting them off the endangered and threatened list. Think about what the people would think if they were to go extinct? It would most likely decrease the profit of the zoos.

I personally think that you should allow the zoos to breed these animals because I think that people would like to find out more about them.

Christian Blanchard

Christian Blanchard

6th grade student

John Ball Zoo School

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and Members:

I am sure that many people have informed you about the typo of your fairly recent law on breeding large carnivores. It insinuates that an official, accredited zoo may not breed any large carnivore. I, a student of John Ball Zoo School, was rather disappointed when I heard of this law. The John Ball Zoo is soon welcoming tigers to our family of animals, and many regular visitors to the zoo are restlessly anticipating this. Not only would our zoo's business boom if cubs were born to some of the large carnivores, but the populations would increase and save many endangered species from utterly disappearing from our planet.

Take the tigers, for example. The tiger population has decreased by over 90% of its original state. By letting us breed tigers, you could save a species. As you undoubtedly know, a single species could save a food chain, an ecosystem, a country, and eventually affect the entire world! Yes, your simple error in the law could affect life as we know it!

But it's not all about tigers. Although our zoo does not have them yet, polar bears are affected too. They're having enough problems with global warming. If we can't breed them, they might die off completely. That would affect our planet negatively, too. Species are becoming extinct by the second, the last thing we need is to add to that list.

I hope you are reading this letter and considering what I have said. If any one of these animals dies off, millions of other species could follow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly McGrath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Molly McGrath

To the Michigan house committee, regulatory reform Chairman Chrawford.

The most liked animals in a zoo are large carnivores. They fascinate us. The more animals that we like that are in zoos the more people come to see them the more money the state gets and than we can get more animals for the zoos. The population might grow and more people would want to come to Michigan to see the carnivores in the zoos.

The more we can breed the more we can save more animals in the wild. The way we can save tiger and other carnivores. Thats how we can save endangered animals, by breeding them and letting them go in their habitat. We (michigan) could save a lot of endangered animals if we change that law.

Do you want the tigers to go extinct?

Dont let them go extinct in the wild.

You could save them by changing the law. please

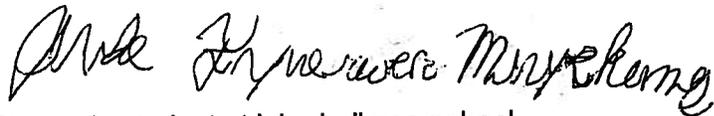
Change it!

Any ways they are keeping down the prey population in their habitat. They are needed in their environment.

More than 95% of the tigers in the wild have died there are about 400 tigers left in the world!

Thank you Mr.Chrawford

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Thymewere Mynckemg". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat slanted style.

6th grade student at john ball zoo school.

To Michigan house committee, reform chair man Crawford and members;

Zoos should be allowed to breed big cats and bears because they are some of the main attractions. Besides, animals aren't meant to be breed just so people can get money by letting people just come on the owner's ranch and hunt the large cats or bears. Over 90% of tigers have died in the wild. The zoo's breed tigers will help bring the population up so tigers won't go extinct.

Imagine 2030 if tigers go extinct. Okay class, today we are learning about extinct animals. Let's start with tigers. They such fierce animals while still being a cute. Poachers killed most of them.

Then legislature didn't change the law so that some zoos in Michigan couldn't breed their tigers and eventually the tigers went extinct.

That is what will happen if this amendment does not pass. Please help the tigers and other big cats and bears.

Sincerely,

Matthew Black

6th grade student at john ball zoo school

To the Michigan House committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

Every year millions of people come to visit Michigan zoos to look at exotic and amazing animals and if the zoos can't breed large carnivores they might go extinct. Just think about the time you went to a zoo and you were amazed at how cool and beautiful the animals were. And if you don't let the zoos breed large carnivores for science based breeding programs like Species Survival Plan (SSP) the animals might go extinct.

John Ball Zoo is about to get 3 new tigers this spring to help with the SSP and if they can't breed them it would not help the tiger population. Also just think of how cute baby tigers would be. Also John Ball Zoo has many large carnivores that could breed such as 4 lions, 2 snow leopards, 2 bears, and 3 cougars. The zoo has recommendations to breed the lions and snow leopards for the SSP.

So please Change the law to help large carnivores not go extinct.

*Ethan
Wilstermann*

Ethan Wilstermann

To the Michigan Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

Hello I am a 6th grader at the John Ball Zoo School in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our school has heard about the Michigan Large Carnivore Act. John Ball Zoo has large carnivores and we heard that they can't be breed even though there in danger of being extinct. The large carnivores in John Ball Zoo are lion, snow leopards, tigers, and cougars. Some of these animals could go extinct any moment and the zoos keep them in captivity to protect them, make them not go extinct, and the Michigan Large Carnivore Act is not letting the zoos breed the animals. These animals might go extinct if we don't let the zoos breed them.

The Potter Park Zoo, Binder Park Zoo, and John Ball Zoo all have snow leopards and they are going to get extinct if we don't protect them so the zoos have to breed them but the Michigan Large Carnivore Act isn't letting them because it's against the law. The zoos should have right to breed animals if they are in captivity because they won't hurt and sell these animals. Tigers are also going extinct if we don't do anything about it. It is important to have these animals because some e a favorite animal and they might people have a favorite animal and if they go extinct they might get depressed. People want to learn, find out more about these animals and if they go extinct we won't know anything about them in the future. Other zoos have large animals like bears and they should be allowed to breed so they save their species from going extinct.

I really hope that you can let zoos breed animals so there could be different animals in the world. We should have other animals in the world and make animals not go extinct anymore.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lennis Hernandez".

Lennis Hernandez-Perez

To the Michigan House, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

Hi, I am a student at John Ball Zoo School Grand Rapids MI. Our class has heard about the Large Carnivore Law and I want and I'm sure other people do too, to exempt zoos. Zoos are for people to learn about the animals, some people will never see them in the wild. This gap in the law takes away the ability for Michigan zoos to ensure the survival of these large carnivore species.

We understand the problem, but please exempt zoos our zoo has some snow leopards these species might go extinct if zoos don't protect them. I hope you forward this part of exempting zoos so we can bring back the species and ensure their survival.

Thank you for taking the time and consideration to read my letter.

Daniel Betten
Sincerely,

Daniel Betten

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

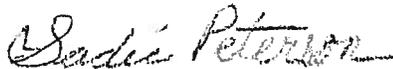
Every year, millions of people go to the Michigan zoos to see large carnivores such as lions, tigers, leopards, and many more. Most of these animals are endangered and zoos have been trying to bring the population back up. But without breeding the ones in the Michigan zoos, the animals will have to be moved to others zoos in different states. I am a Zoo School student in sixth grade and believe that this law should change. Without exempting Michigan zoos, Michigan will not be able to help in the struggle to bring these animals back since it would be illegal.

If this gap in the law stays, the zoos won't be able to protect the bloodlines of these animals and ensure the survival of these species. If you really never wanted to see these beautiful creatures again, then keep the law as it is. But if you want to protect and save them, then let zoos be able to breed the large carnivores. If not, I'm sure that the population of these animals will decline at an alarming rate.

As a member of the House Regulation and Reform Committee, please vote for this bill and assist in its passage in the House.

Sincerely,

Sadie Peterson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sadie Peterson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

To The Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

I'm a resident of Grand Rapids, MI. I go to John Ball Zoo School, and my school wants the law which prevents breeding of large carnivores to allow zoos to breed them. I think the zoos should be able to breed large carnivores, because if they can, we can save some species from going extinct.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Paul

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul W." with a period at the end.

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford And Members.

I am a student at John Ball Zoo School located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I have become aware of the legislature that prohibits the breeding of large carnivores in captivity. This letter will address the reasons that I would appreciate your reconsideration of this law when it comes to zoos.

Many of the large carnivores are endangered in the wild. Zoos have a small sample of these animals. Zoos would be able to better protect these animals and their young on site as a result of trained zookeepers and veterinarians. The animals are well taken care of under regulations set by the zoos.

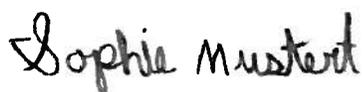
If any large carnivore were to become pregnant, they would receive prenatal care in the zoo. The mother would be monitored throughout the pregnancy for any difficulties or distress. The fetus could also be monitored medically regularly because of the trained professionals that are on staff. If there were any problems they could be troubleshot immediately. The pregnancies could potentially have a better success rate in the captivity of a zoo.

The animals that are at the zoo receive care that is already regulated and structured. The animals receive a balanced diet, safe habitats, socialization they need and medical support. The pregnancies could also undergo scrutinized, regimented regulations put in place by the government and veterinarians working together. The animals are secure within the confines of the zoo as opposed to random American citizens or circuses which do not have a structured regimented care plan in place, nor do they have professional staff to care for them.

I appreciate your consideration of my letter and my views regarding changing the law when it comes to allowing large carnivores to breed in zoos.

Sincerely,

Sophie Mustert

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sophie Mustert". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

To The Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and Members:

Most years, more than 2 million or so people visit zoos and aquariums in Michigan. From all ages and groups, we are given first class experience. We see a lot of exotic animals and unique animals. Every time we visit the zoo we come to see the animals we will never see in the wild.

Some of these animals are large carnivores. Large carnivores include bears and big cats. These large carnivores are highly respected animals. We come to see them because of their strong but graceful moments.

Most people never get to see the offspring of these animals in the zoos. In Michigan there is a law that prevents large carnivores to breed.

In 2000, a law was supposed to be passed so peoples couldn't breed and sell large carnivores. Unfortunately when the law was passed it made it so breeding large carnivores illegal for zoos as well as others in Michigan.

We all would like to help correct this "mistake" in the law. We hope that the law will be fixed so that zoos may breed large carnivores.

Sincerely,

Violet Kauman

Violet Kauman

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reformed Chairman Crawford and members:

Hello, I am a resident of Grand Rapids, MI Zoo Middle school for 6th graders. I am here to ask you about the Large Carnivore Law that was passed in 2000. It was meant for the safety of people and the animals. But there was a mistake in the bill NOT EXEMPTING ZOO'S. I would like to have this law approved and change.

You could make a species go extinct by not passing this law. AND IT COULD BE YOU! Which might cause you to not be reelected? Do you really want that to happen?

Every year, more than 2 million people visit zoo's in Michigan including John Ball Zoo. We approve of passing this law and will be looking forward to breeding our new ENDAGERD species of Tigers, due to the law change.

Sincerely,



Isabelle

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and Members:

Michigan zoos are an important part of our society, that are much more than just an animal show. They are a perfect chance to do many great things, such as educate the public about exotic and wild animals that they would not regularly be able to see without a zoo. Zoos are also a part in important programs to breed and match the genetic codes of many endangered animals. They take part in saving whole species of animals, and restoring their healthy population. This is why zoos should not be regulated in the wrong ways. Stopping Michigan's zoos from breeding large carnivores is stopping Michigan's citizens from being inspired and educated by them, slowing down their population increase, and stopping their captivity and care in Michigan.

The Large Carnivore Act needs to be changed. It needs to allow Michigan zoos to breed large carnivores. John Ball Zoo, the Detroit Zoo, Potter Park Zoo, and Binder Park Zoo worked hard to maintain a stable system of breeding, gene matching, and caring for animals between zoos. Large carnivores are an important part of these cooperative breeding programs, with many species that are struggling to stay alive. How can Michigan's zoos help solve this problem when they are banned from doing it?

I am a student at John Ball Zoo School in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which is a sixth grade environmental program. I have learned about zoology, what zoos do, and many other things. Every animal species is important. That's why large carnivores can't become extinct, even just in certain areas, because their niche will not be served.

Sincerely,

Dylan Witterveen-Lane

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

Detroit Zoo, Potter Park Zoo, Binder Park Zoo, John Ball Zoo, and Children's Zoo are all zoos in Michigan. The five Michigan zoos have a total combined attendance of 2,296,000 visitors annually. They also take care of over 8,000 individual animals on a daily basis.

We have many large endangered carnivores in these five zoos. We have lions, tigers, bears, cheetahs, cougars, and snow leopards. One way to keep these animals away from extinction is by breeding and for them to reproduce. These zoos are also trying to teach people about large carnivores but also about other kinds of animals.

Zoos should be able to breed large carnivores to prevent them from going extinct. The zoos in Michigan should be able to breed these animals, because we don't do it for profit. We do it for education and learning.

Thank you for your time and consideration and look forward to hearing from you

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Silvia".

Silvia Jeronimo Matias

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulation Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

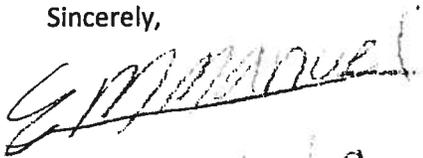
I go to John Ball Zoo School and our zoo has endangered species like Brown Bears, Snow Leopards, lions, and Tigers. Tigers are highly endangered and if we could not breed the tigers the population will go down and they will become extinct. Also, for the Snow Leopards they will become extinct also.

Also, if larger carnivores become extinct it could break the food chain and soon are food will become extinct and we will have nothing to eat.

Also may some people have not seen a baby tiger and they lived in Michigan they may not come to zoos anymore and it is a great experience for the kids.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,





To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

I am a sixth grader who goes to John Ball Zoo School. I am writing to you about a change I would like to propose to the Large Carnivore Act. Currently, the Large Carnivore Act does not allow for any individual or organization to breed any large carnivores such as lions, tigers, bears, or jaguars, even for conservation purposes. This Act helps so animals aren't being bred for profit. It also helps so they aren't killed for their parts.

The law says that animals may not be bred at all even if you have a permit. The change I would like to propose would be to amend the law to allow certain conservation minded organizations to seek permits allowing them to breed large carnivores to help save them from extinction. Many of the large carnivores are currently threatened or endangered; allowing a permitted group to breed these animals will increase the species chances of survival.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Drew Zeug".

Drew Zeug

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

I am a Zoo School student in sixth grade and I believe that if the law doesn't change that soon the large carnivore population will eventually decline at an alarming rate.

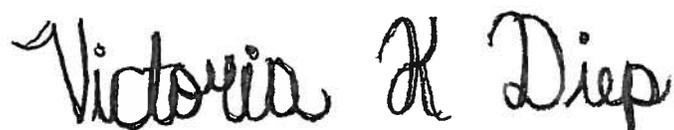
In 2000 the Legislature rightly amended the Large Carnivore Act, but the Legislature forgot to exempt the zoos of Michigan. The Zoo's of Michigan bring in more than 2 million visitors to Michigan. With the law, Zoo's of Michigan will not be able to breed the large carnivores that they have. The zoo's in Michigan that are partnered with foundations such as Convene experts in animal care and conservation, that helps maintain the population of these large carnivores such as, Lions, Tigers, and Leopards. The reason that they joined the foundation is so they can continue the population and the bloodlines of these large carnivores.

If the Legislature doesn't change this law the animal's species and bloodlines will have a slim chance of continuing. The reason the Michigan zoos are trying to change this law is so the species bloodline will go on, and so that if you wanted to ever see these magnificent animals again you could. But if you don't change the law sadly the large carnivores will be sent to other states to be bred and maybe the people in Michigan will not see these large carnivores in their local zoo's.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to hearing the final decision.

Sincerely,

Victoria Diep

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria K Diep". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'V' and a distinct 'K'.

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Chairman Crawford and members:

Every year, more than 2 million people visit Michigan's zoos and aquariums. From young to old, families, school groups, and tourists are all given a first class experience. My favorite animals to see in every zoo are the large carnivores. Large carnivores like bears and lions are so cool because they fascinate the majority of people.

The law that got passed in the year of 2000 is to tighten up safety measures. I think that it is a great idea to tighten up the safety, but these animals that so many people love are not allowed to breed. Some of these species are very close to becoming extinct in the wild, so if they cannot breed in zoos, then they will not come any closer to raising the population.

There are only so many zoos in Michigan, so if they lose the large carnivores than lots of people will stop going because they loved those animals so if they cannot breed than the zoos can lose them. I cannot imagine if all Michigan's zoo lost of their large carnivores. I, myself, would be devastated

Sincerely,

Chris Mendez

6th grader at John Ball Zoo School

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Mendez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name and address.

To Chairman Crawford,

I have been visiting John Ball Zoo for as long I could remember. I am 11 years old and I attended John Ball Zoo School. My name is Cece O. I am writing this to show you some reasons that the Large Carnivore Law has flaws.

My first reasoning attempt is on the breeding of large Carnivores. Now if I am correct, the law applies to all big cats and bears. That being said the tiger population is going down. I will not talk about the population dying the wild, which is not my concern here. This is a sad truth. The zoos in Michigan have about 2,296,000 visitors a year. Most of these are families. Now as you and I know animals don't live forever. The people of Michigan have rare times in the zoos of Michigan to see these wonderful animals. Most of the animals in the zoos do not live in Michigan. The zoos provide learning of large carnivores. If these animals die and this part of this law will deprive the generations of Michigan's people from learning about large carnivores.

When you make these laws it comes to mind that you would forget about how the law will affect the zoos. I only will talk about John Ball Zoo. This zoo is a very safe zoo and is popular for families. The breeding here I have not seen done myself, but will have an assumption that the zoo is trust worthy to breed large carnivores.

This is my reasoning for this part of the Large Carnivore law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cece Olson". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Cece O.

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

Zoos in Michigan want to help large carnivores not go extinct by breeding them. At this they can't because of a law that stops them from breed large carnivores even though it's for a good cause. I go to John Ball Zoo School I go to school right outside the zoo and I love the animals and want to have the animals stay extant and even though it's a small role by only breeding two at a time it makes a difference.

Here at John Ball Zoo we would like to breed our lions, snow leopards, tigers, brown bears, and cougars. The Tigers haven't come yet but the species of tiger we are getting have about only four hundred tigers left. If we can't breed our carnivores we will have to send them to a different state where they can reproduce. We don't want to do that but if it depends on the species survival then we have to and we won't see those animals any more.

This would not add expense to the state it would just allow the endangered animals to reproduce and be a little closer to getting off the endangered list. But changing this law would not allow people to breed them to sell it would only allow zoos that were in an anti-endangered program. So the animals wouldn't be treated bad or hurt by people who sold and trained them.

So I hope this law goes by to help the animals I hope you care as much about this as I do and thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,

Nathan Wil

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

Ever since I was young I have been coming to John Ball Zoo. Almost everyone in the city is pulled in by the creatures and the visitors want to see more.

Some of the most awe inspiring animals are the large carnivores. We are soon going to get tigers. These tigers are in a crisis; more than 97% of the tiger population has disappeared in the past century. To change this sad truth we must change the Large Carnivore Law to allow the zoo to breed these animals to raise the population of tigers and all other large carnivores.

There is also a problem with people being able to sell these animals. If they sell them they don't always know the whole truth about the person they are selling to. These people might not care for them rightly; they might not have the correct facilities, and might just sell them to a different person who does not know how to care for this animal. The Large Carnivore Law should outlaw these animals being sold this way.

Please change this law.

Sincerely,

Ethan den Dulk

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Chairman Crawford and members;

I've attended John Ball Zoo most of my life. It's been a place where I can enjoy and learn about animals. The zoo finally made enough money to buy new tigers because the old ones died. The tiger population has gone down 90%. Imagine the world without animals. This is only the first small step.

Tigers aren't the only animals affected by the Large Carnivore Law. Panthers, Cheetahs, Lions, Leopards, jaguars, Cougars, and all kinds of Bears.

The reason why this law is bad because most people besides of zoos use these large animals for money. I urge that we change this law for the better.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline Fitzgerald". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

John ball Zoo school 6th grade student

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

From the year of 2000, the Legislature amended a Large Carnivore Act to take up safety measures in the act. The law said that they are to take good care of them, be friendly, treat them properly etc. Now that the law is not formal/not a law anymore, the Michigan zoos and owners are not allowed to breed the large carnivores or exotic animals of theirs.

Some people are trying to help so that our Michigan Zoos should be able to breed and ensure the survival for the large carnivores. If in any way they do that, they would be doing it illegally. That is why I think I agree so that they can get the law back so that the zoos and owners would be able to breed the exotic animal(s) such as Lions, Tigers, Leopards, Cheetahs, Cougars, Snow Leopards, Brown Bears, Grizzly Bears, and Polar Bears.

So now I, a John Ball Zoo student, will want to help correcting the oversight by a previous legislature. I think that the work that people are trying to do by letting those exotic animals breed is helping a lot and I think I should be a part of the help because I am sure that I agree with the people. This letter from I a Zoo School student, to inform you that I agree with getting the law back for owners and zoos could be able to breed exotic animals instead of doing it illegally. So I would love to appreciate and I hope it would help form my cooperation with this work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Castro-Leon".

Janet Castro-Leon

6th Grader at John Ball Zoo School

To the Michigan House Committee,
Regulatory Reform Chairman
Crawford and members,

Hello, my name is Kenzie.
I'm a 6th Grader at John
Ball Zoo School. I wanted
to write this letter to
express my opinion on
the big cats issue, and
the possibility of an
amendment.

I agree with the
amendment. We should
make the amendment. The
current situation could be
part of the reason tigers
are doing so poorly. We
could affect this process
in a positive way. All we
need is the amendment to
be made. :)

Sincerely,

Kenzie M.

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman Crawford and members:

Every year many people all over the world go to zoos to see the many exotic animals. Over the last century 97% of are Large Carnivores. That means there are only 3% of the Large Carnivores left. With this law you are preventing these animals from being breed, and you don't change this law the Large Carnivore species can and may go extinct.

The zoos should be able to breed animals so they can help the animals get off the endangered list. If you change this law then it could attract many more people with the baby animals. John Ball Zoo is receiving 3 new tigers this spring or summer. They would like to help bring up the large carnivore population. With this law they cannot help these animals. They should be able to. That's the real reason they keep these animals in captivity.

Sincerely, *Jasmyne Koon*

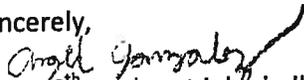
To the Michigan house committee, regulatory reform chairman and members:

Every year, more than two million people visit Michigan's zoos and see exotic animals for the first time. With firsthand experience this is a great feeling. It gives you a chance to actually feel as if you are in the Amazon or Africa.

The carnivores are some of the most popular animals at the zoo because of their great qualities. Visitors have much respect for these animals. An example is when visitors donated thousands of dollars for John Ball Zoo to be able to buy the tigers.

I agree with the amendment that the zoos of Michigan are trying to put together. Although I do not agree with breeding for profit and merchandise unless the animals are well taken care of. I do not agree with the owner not having a license. Please understand that the zoo committee is doing the right thing. I will try to be at the John Ball Zoo's side at all times. I will continue to give my support as long as I know the zoo is doing the right thing. Even I do feel that a law is a law and that if a numerous amount of people vote the law in, and then the law has a reason to stand and stay the same. I would think that laws are made to help people and make sure that everyone is happy. I would think that I want the zoo to do the right thing so if the law is passed I would think that the zoo would respect it and not twist it around.

Sincerely,



6th grader at John Ball Zoo School

February 3, 2014

Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and Members:

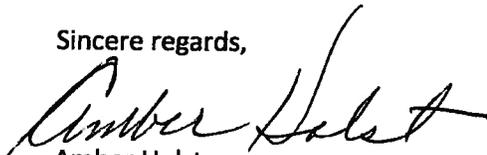
RE: HB5163

I am writing to urge you to support Rep. Rob Verheulen in correcting the oversight by a previous legislature re: the breeding of large carnivores.

Please support the bill Rep. Verhuelen from Kent County has introduced HB5163 that will remedy this situation. His bill would provide fair and prudent standards that if met, would allow a properly managed zoo to participate in a science based cooperative conservation breeding program for large carnivores.

Conservation is everyone's concern – thank you for your thoughtful judgment and careful consideration in supporting this matter before you.

Sincere regards,



Amber Holst

33 Star Gazer Lane

Comstock Park, Michigan 49321

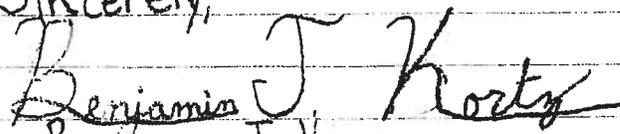
To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform
Chairman Crawford and Members:

I am writing this letter to you in regards to the Large Carnivore Act. I am a student at John Ball Zoo School. I am very concerned about the environment & the protection of animals. As far as this law is concerned I don't think its right. I think the law should change.

I believe that accredited zoos should be able to breed their large carnivores so they don't go extinct or endangered. I would love to see these animals around for my children's children and their children's children.

I am the future and I owe it to future generations to fight so they will have the priveledges that I do to see all these animals thrive and live naturally in our existence. I hope you consider this when you reviewing this law.

Sincerely,



Benjamin T. Kertz

Age 12

Grand Rapids, Michigan

2-3-14

To: Michigan House Committee,
Regulatory Reform Chairperson &
Members

From: Frances Meller
3870 Foxglove Dr NE
Grand Rapids, Mi 49525

Re: HB 5163 Support

Please remedy the oversight
in Michigan's current large carnivore
act and amend the act
to allow accredited facilities
participating in scientifically
based breeding programs to
resume their important work of
breeding large carnivore. These
are a vital part of the Michigan economy
and tremendous educational resources.
Thank you

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman
Crowford and members:

I am a John Ball Zoo School Student. There are a lot of
people who donated and waited for our new tigers. This summer
our tigers will come! There are only four hundred of these tigers
left in the wild! Creatable Zoos that are in a science based group
are trying to help! Let them help their bloodline while breeding our
tigers.

I have lived two blocks away from John Ball Zoo all my life. visited
dozens of times. These zoos educate the public and support good change!
Their Bald Eagles have breed and given more to the wild. Let them
help tigers survive! The Detroit Zoo, Potter Park Zoo, Binder Park Zoo,
John Ball Zoo, and the Children Zoo at Celebration Square/Saginaw care
for over 8,000 individual animals on a daily basis.

Please change the law that no large carnivore can be breed in a
private establishment. Let these zoo breed them and help the wild.
A lot of people are seeing new animals for the first time! This
zoo law is great but there is always room for improvement! These
zoos will not sell for profit, they will help the environment,
You don't need to let people just with license to breed.

This zoo and animals are part of my life. 3% of tigers are left!
Help me, others, and help animals' population.

Sincerely,

Angela Mish

Angela Mish

John Ball Zoo sixth grader.

To the Michigan House Committee,

I know that you have a law that prevents zoo-keepers (or anyone) from breeding large carnivores.

Over 2 million people visit the Michigan zoos each year. Young children love to see the strong movements of the large carnivores.

The population of these large creatures has gone down a lot in the past few decades.

Please take my words into consideration when questioning this law.

Sincerely,

Hailey R.

Hailey R.

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform chairman
and members:

Every year many people come
to visit Michigan Zoos. They
look at the lions, tigers
and the cheetahs. But what
would happen if those animals
started going extinct? Zoos
wouldn't be able to save
them because of the large
cost low.

This is why the amendment
we are proposing should be
okayed. So Zoos can part take
in programs that allow them
to breed their big cats to save
them.

Sincerely,

Sammy Wendt

Sammy Wendt

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

Every year, more than 2 million people visit Michigan's zoos and aquariums. From young to old, families, school groups, and tourists are all given a first class experience. Many are seeing exotic and unique animals for the first time. What is universally true is that almost none of the people that visit the zoo will ever have the chance to see these animals in the wild or in their indigenous habitats.

Some of the most popular animals to see at the zoo are the large carnivores. They fascinate visitors with their powerful yet graceful movements. They instill awe and respect for the ever amazing animal kingdom.

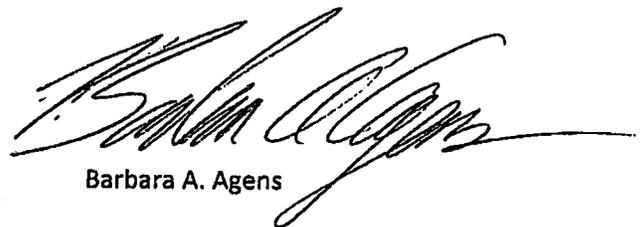
Unfortunately in Michigan, zoo visitors are prohibited by law from seeing the young offspring of the large carnivores currently in our zoos. That's because in Michigan, it is illegal to breed large carnivores, even in zoos participating in national and international conservation breeding programs.

In 2000, the Legislature rightly amended the Large Carnivore Act to tighten up safety measures in the act. Unfortunately they mistakenly forgot to include an exemption that would allow accredited zoos to breed large carnivores.

This gap in the law has taken away the ability for our Michigan Zoos to fully participate in programs that will ensure the survival of some of these large carnivore species, protect the purity of their bloodlines, and provide a complete zoo experience that visitors in nearly every other state enjoy. Accredited facilities participating in these scientifically based breeding programs may also lose their large carnivores to zoos in other states if Michigan's laws regarding the breeding of large carnivores in these establishments are not remedied.

We would like your help in correcting this oversight by a previous legislature. Rep. Rob Verheulen from Kent County has introduced HB5163 that will remedy this situation. His bill would provide fair and prudent standards that if met, would allow a properly managed zoo to participate in a science based cooperative conservation breeding program for large carnivores.

As a member of the House Regulation and Reform Committee, please vote for this bill and assist in its passage in the House.



Barbara A. Agens