

Mr. Chairman, Committee members,

My name is Colby Drechsel and I am here today speaking on behalf of the Colorado Conservation Alliance, a consortium of private property landowners, ranchers, livestock producers, sportsman and outfitters with a mission to protect our outdoor heritage and wildlife habitats through responsible science-based wildlife management

I am resident of Lakewood, CO, a single father raising two young boys 8 and 10 yrs of age. Last year I ran for Colorado State Senate District 22. While I reside on the Front Range, I experienced a wolf encounter more than 9 years ago and, consequently, have had other encounters since then in the Walden area. My boys and I spend the majority of our recreational time in rural Colorado, I am personally vested in the outcome of this wolf reintroduction agenda not only on behalf of the people I represent today, but also for the wellbeing and safety of my and our children.

The Colorado Conservation Alliance supports SB-255 and SB-256.

The reintroduction of gray wolves into Colorado will result in wolf predation on domestic livestock and working ranch and domestic dogs as observed numerous times already near Walden, CO. Colorado citizens of 56 out of 64 counties have signed resolutions against wolves being released into their counties. The passage of SB-255 would take a significant step in rebuilding trust and managing wolves within the agricultural community by acknowledging that their concerns are valid and warrant substantive accommodation.

SB-256 appropriately level-sets the expectations of Coloradans who voted for a reintroduction during a time when the gray wolf was not listed as an endangered species. Furthermore, this bill ensures that CPW can continue its work to responsibly reintroduce gray wolves into Colorado under a process that provides them with the necessary tools and flexibility to ensure its long-term success and management.

Thank you for your time and considering our comments regarding these two, instrumental pieces of legislation.