



Arizona Farm Bureau Federation

325 S. Higley Rd, Suite 210
Gilbert, AZ 85296

August 29, 2025

The Honorable Paul Gosar
2057 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gosar:

On behalf of the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation and the farmers and ranchers we represent across the state, I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 4255, Enhancing Safety for Animals Act. We are grateful for your leadership on this issue and appreciate the support for Arizona ranchers who have had to deal with the increasing challenges posed by predatory wildlife, particularly the Mexican gray wolf.

The Enhancing Safety for Animals Act provides critical measures to protect our livestock from harm while supporting the sustainability of Arizona's agricultural industry. Specifically, we strongly endorse the bill's provisions to delist the Mexican wolf from the Endangered Species Act. For decades, the protected status of the Mexican wolf has led to significant economic losses for ranchers due to livestock depredation. Delisting would allow for more effective management of wolf populations, reducing conflicts and enabling ranchers to safeguard their herds without undue federal restrictions. Additionally, we support the delinking of U.S. and Mexican wolf populations, which recognizes the distinct management needs on either side of the border and prevents the conflation of recovery efforts that do not accurately reflect the realities faced by American ranchers.

Ranchers across our state face ongoing hardships from wolf depredations, which not only threaten their livelihoods but also impact the broader food supply chain. This legislation offers practical solutions, including improved local control over wildlife management, which will help our members protect their operations while promoting responsible stewardship.

While we advocate for delisting, we recognize that if wolf populations remain a presence in Arizona, ranchers must have access to adequate funding to alleviate the hardships caused by depredations. In this regard, we oppose any efforts to defund programs that support livestock producers dealing with these challenges. Instead, we urge continued and enhanced support for compensation mechanisms like the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

We are encouraged by the recent advancements in this area under President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which marked a significant step forward for the ranching community. This legislation increased LIP funding for predation losses from 75% to 100% of the market value, added compensation for unborn livestock depredations, and incorporated adjustments for local market

variability. These changes represent some of the first meaningful reforms to the program in its history, providing much-needed relief to producers affected by wolves and other predators. We view your legislation as a complement and as proof of a continued positive trajectory of reform and strongly support building upon these gains to ensure ranchers receive fair and timely compensation.

Your commitment to advancing policies that safeguard our rural communities and promote responsible land stewardship is deeply appreciated. Thank you for your continued leadership and for championing the interests of Arizona's farmers and ranchers. We respectfully urge swift passage of H.R. 4255 and stand ready to support your efforts in any way we can. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation can provide further information or assistance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Boelts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Boelts" clearly distinguishable.

John Boelts, President
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation