January 11, 2019

California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

PO Box 944209

Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Attn: Director Charlton Bonham

Dear Director Bonham;

I am writing to you as a wolf advocate and resident of California who is very concerned about the recent killing of OR-59, a young collared wolf who entered California from Oregon in early December 2018 and was killed. According to your website, “this is now a criminal investigation conducted by wildlife officers from CDFW’s law enforcement division…” The website also reminded the public that that killing a wolf is a potential crime and subject to serious penalties including imprisonment.

As you are aware, wolves are struggling to recover throughout the United States and face a constant threat from those who do not wish to co-exist and believe in the lethal control of this species.

However, most of the citizens of California and of the lower 48 states want wolves to recover and welcome them back into their rightful territories. Furthermore, wolves are completely protected in the State of California which makes the killing of OR59 even more disturbing. This should not be happening in our state.

Your bio on the CDFW Website stated that you brought a “longstanding appreciation for the outdoors” when you were appointed the Director of the CDFW in 2011. I hope that this appreciation also extends to the wildlife and potential wildlife in our beautiful state and that you will assure the citizens a full, complete and unbiased investigation of the killing of OR59.

As I am sure that you are aware, how this criminal investigation is conducted will be followed throughout the country and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife can set an example of how something this serious should be handled.

Sincerely,

https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Explore/Director/Email