



January 4, 2024

## Memorandum of Support S.7927/A.8295

**S.7927 Hoylman-Sigal/A.8295 Carroll Protects wolves by requiring animals which could be wolves be submitted for a DNA test and, when determined to be wolves, the department take action to protect wolves from being taken in the future.**

This bill will protect wolves by requiring the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to collect genetic data about large canids with specified characteristics that are harvested by hunters and trappers in New York. The data collected will help DEC to identify areas of the state where wolves may be present and will help DEC to gather important information on the coyote and wolf populations in the state. The legislation does not reduce the hunting season or decrease bag limits for hunters and trappers lawfully killing coyotes or other game animals in New York State.

Hunter and trappers will be required to report to DEC every coyote that is harvested, so that DEC will have details about the animals, how many are taken, and where they are located when they are taken. This reporting is similar to what hunters and trappers already do for other animal species. In addition, coyotes that weigh greater than 50 pounds will be subjected to a DNA analysis by DEC to determine the genetic composition of the animal. If the DNA analysis shows that the animal is a wolf, then DEC may impose a temporary moratorium on the killing of wild canids in a specific area in order to protect any wolves in the area. DEC will decide the length of time and the location of the moratorium.

DEC will also be required to provide more information to the public. DEC will post on its website information about the DNA testing of wild canids, and any determinations of whether to impose a moratorium on the killing of wild canids. DEC will also be required to update its hunting and trapping educational materials to provide information about wolves, including the legal protections for wolves, the checking and tagging requirements for wild canids imposed by the new law, and how to distinguish a wolf from a coyote when a hunter or trapper is in the field. By the end of 2025, DEC will also be required to submit a report on the status of wolves in New York State.

**For all of these reasons, Protect the Adirondacks supports S.7927/A.8295.**

**For more information:**

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