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Mr. Joe Tigullaraq  
Chair, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
Box 1379  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Tigullaraq:

I am writing to request that the Board provide a written decision to the Minister of the Environment to formally indicate a position on listing the Grizzly Bear (Northwestern Population) and Wolverine (Western Population) under the *Species at Risk Act*.

As you are aware, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessed the status of Grizzly Bear (Northwestern Population) and Wolverine (Western Population) as species of special concern in 2002 and 2003 respectively. In 2004, Environment Canada initiated consultations with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on the proposed listing of the Grizzly Bear and Wolverine species under the *Species at Risk Act*. At that time, the Board did not agree with the proposal to list, indicating that community consultation and a greater consideration of Aboriginal traditional knowledge were required. In January 2005, the Governor in Council decided not to list the Grizzly Bear (Northwestern Population) and the Wolverine (Western Population) under the Act, in order to allow for further consultation with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

Environment Canada officials have since consulted on these species with affected parties in Canada. Consultation efforts included a series of consultations with northern communities that the Nunavut government deemed to have extensive experience with Grizzly Bear (Northwestern Population) and Wolverine (Western Population). Environment Canada officials informed the Board of the consultation approach for northern communities and at the conclusion of the consultations, the Board was briefed on the results. I understand that one community supported listing the two species, one took a neutral position and two communities opposed listing the two species. Another community did not provide a position.

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In order to formally conclude this phase of consultation, and to restart the regulatory process, I am requesting that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board provide a written decision to the Minister of the Environment to formally indicate a position on these two species.

Following receipt of the Board's position, the Minister of the Environment is required to make a recommendation to the Governor in Council regarding whether or not to list the species under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. The species would enter a formal regulatory process, which includes a full socio-economic analysis and publication of the proposals in *Canada Gazette Part I* for a public comment period.

Should the regulatory process result in a decision to list the species, there can be substantial benefits. Funding programs support surveys and research on the biology, distribution and threats facing listed species. Management plans are developed for species of special concern, and may include measures for the conservation of species. Management plans would be prepared in cooperation with relevant wildlife management board.

As you are aware, under the *Species at Risk Act*, for species listed as threatened or endangered, prohibitions on hunting apply only on federal lands. Under section 83(3) of the Act, there is an exemption for activities on federal land that are conducted in accordance with conservation measures for a wildlife species under a land claims agreement.

In this case, it is important to note that a listing of "species of special concern" does not result in the application of the Act's general prohibitions. Should the Governor in Council decide to list Grizzly Bear (Northwestern Population) and Wolverine (Western Population) as species of special concern, prohibitions against hunting would not apply.

I trust that this information is helpful and ask that you provide your written decision directly to the Honourable John Baird, Minister of the Environment. Please copy me on your correspondence.

Yours sincerely,



Michele Brenning  
Director General  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Environmental Stewardship Branch