



The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor
State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 4, 2018

RE: SB 1487 (STERN) – REQUEST FOR VETO

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing you to respectfully request your opposition to SB 1487 (Stern), which would make the possession of certain African animals and their parts illegal (subject to civil penalties of up to \$40,000 for each violation).

SB 1487 would wrongly ban the possession of many African wildlife species (and parts thereof) that are legally hunted by Californians in Africa. The funding generated by hunting not only supports the conservation of those wildlife species but contributes to the economies of local villages. Please note that many of the African countries that are dependent upon hunting, including Namibia, Tanzania, South Africa and Zimbabwe, have submitted letters of concern or opposition to SB 1487 while the bill was pending in the State Legislature.

This bill creates a definition of “Iconic African Species” which is not based whatsoever on science or wildlife species’ needs but rather arbitrary and emotional considerations. The author fails to recognize that some species that would fall under this new definition are abundant and/or must be managed through regulated hunting.

SB 1487 would establish a dangerous precedent of banning the possession of legally hunted wildlife. While a primary goal of hunting is to procure meat for human consumption, parts of wildlife are also commonly used for taxidermy and other artistic purposes. This longstanding practice applies not only to large mammals, but small game, game birds and fish as well; in fact, many California sportsmen have taxidermied wildlife or fish in their homes which are appreciated for their artistic and narrative value.

Please note that legal hunting not only provides an important incentive for African countries to conserve their wildlife, but aids enforcement of game laws. In the absence of legal hunters in the field and the financial resources they contribute, illegal poaching—which is the real threat to African wildlife—will become even more problematic.

It should also be pointed out that enforcement of this proposed law will require significant financial resources and time by Department of Fish and Wildlife enforcement officers, including efforts to verify when an African animal part was possessed. As detailed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis, SB 1487 implementation would require over \$3 million in spending authority in the first year and almost \$2.8 million annually in subsequent years. Because of this, other important enforcement efforts by the Department, such as its traditional role of regulating in-state hunting and fishing activities, would be negatively impacted.

For these reasons, please veto this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Hennelly".

Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Legislative Affairs and Public Policy