



March 4, 2019

The Honorable Laura Friedman
Assemblywoman
State Capitol, Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 44 – A bill to prohibit manufacture and sale/trade/gifting of furs in California - OPPOSE

Dear Assemblywoman Friedman:

California Waterfowl regrets to inform you of our OPPOSITION to your AB 44, a measure which would statutorily prohibit an individual from manufacturing or selling, offer to sell, displaying for sale, trading, giving, donating or otherwise distribute a fur product in California.

To start, we are concerned that this measure is yet another in a long line of recent proposals that would restrict, curtail, eliminate or otherwise alter the legal and ethical take of species in California, further eroding and undermining what remains of our outdoor sporting heritage in the state. You are no doubt aware that the Department of Fish and Wildlife is suffering from a systemic structural budget deficit, as fewer of the state's residents participate in outdoor sporting activities of all kinds, including hunting and angling. The North American Model of Conservation established under President Theodore Roosevelt has been the backbone of conservation and agency funding at the national and state level in the country for many years. The very nature of our ability to provide the ecological values we know and care about depend on our ability to attract and maintain a base of outdoor enthusiasts whose purchase of equipment, gear, permits and licenses fund the backbone of this work. At face value, AB 44 measure is seen by many on the sportsmen's and women's community as yet another door being closed in the face of legally acceptable and ethical harvest and disposition of harvested species.

Fur trapping is a legal and ethical pursuit approved by the California Fish and Game Commission, the body tasked with overseeing resource management in California, including setting seasons, bag limits, and other variable association with harvest of species in California. Each species under consideration is subject to consultation with CDFW, conservation and environmental groups, and members of the public in a highly transparent manner. Many of the species harvested, whose fur would be implicated by this measure, are better cared for and managed from a resources perspective than domesticated animals that provide leather, wool, fur, or a variety of food products. The singular focus of this measure therefore presupposes something other than a science and conservation-based approach to management of fur in California.

For these reasons, the California Waterfowl Association regrets to inform you of our opposition to AB 44. We ask that you withdraw this measure from the legislative process, and encourage other members of the Legislature to vote "No" on this measure.

If you would like further information about California Waterfowl and its conservation programs, please contact me at (916) 648-1406 or mhennelly@calwaterfowl.org.

Sincerely,

Mark Hennelly
Vice President, Government Relations

CC: Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
Assemblymember James Gallagher
Assemblymember Frank Bigelow
Assemblymember Steven Choi
Assemblymember Kansen Chu
Assemblymember Brian Dahle
Assemblymember Cristina Garcia
Assemblymember Todd Gloria
Assemblymember Ash Kalra
Assemblymember Marc Levine
Assemblymember Blanca Rubio
Assemblymember Rudy Salas
Assemblymember Jim Wood