

September 13, 2019

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: AB 1254 (Kamlager-Dove) – Bobcat hunting – VETO REQUEST

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California Waterfowl Association, I am writing to strongly urge you to VETO AB 1254, legislation which would arbitrarily ban the hunting and other taking of bobcats. It also sets a terrible precedent of usurping the authority of the Governorially appointed Fish and Game Commission, which is charged with the management of all game species in the State.

AB 1254 is an anti-hunting measure that is not based on sound science or wildlife management principles. In fact, bobcats are a common, widespread species that is found in almost every county in California, as well as most other U.S. states, Canada and Mexico.

AB 1254 would put unnecessary financial strain on the Department of Fish and Wildlife, costing over \$6M to implement, not including the loss of annual hunting licenses, stamps and tags sales, and tax revenue collected via the federal Pittman-Robertson Act on hunting-related equipment;

Most importantly, AB 1254 wrongly bypasses the science-based regulatory process of the CA Fish and Game Commission, which was established to determine hunting seasons and bag limits. The Commission process is fully transparent and focuses heavily on science;

- Commission meetings are public and broadcast over the Internet;
- Commission process allows full public participation and input, with topics placed on agenda for testimony and discussion at three consecutive meetings;
- Commission process includes full scientific input from Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- Commission process allows for public to bring additional science to the table;
- Commission process requires critical California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis and incorporates findings into their decision;

Finally, AB 1254 would remove law-abiding hunters who serve as the “eyes and ears” of law enforcement from the field. Law-abiding hunters help prevent the illegal take of bobcats and aid wardens via CalTip reporting of poaching, marijuana cultivation and other illegal activities. Legal hunting also helps fund the maintenance of public wildlife habitats and serves as an important incentive for landowners to protect wildlife habitat on private lands. Further, it

scapegoats hunters for perceived issues with bobcat species management, something that has been scientifically disproven and rejected by the Fish and Game Commission.

For these reasons, CWA respectfully requests that you support the role of the Fish and Game Commission and those Commissioners who you appoint, and VETO AB 1254 when it reaches your desk.

Sincerely,



Mark Hennelly
California Waterfowl Association
Vice President, Government Relations

Cc: Assemblywoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Chuck Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Eric Sklar, President, Fish and Game Commission
Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission