



March 31, 2025 – REV2

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear  
The Honorable Henry Stern  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 427 – Habitat Conservation Fund – Removal of Sunset Date – SUPPORT**

Dear Senators Blakespear and Stern:

The undersigned wildlife conservation organizations are pleased to strongly support your SB 427 legislation which would remove the current sunset date of July 1, 2030 for the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF), allowing the annual transfer of \$30,000,000 from the General Fund into the HCF to continue in perpetuity.

In June 1990, the voters of California passed Proposition 117, “The California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990”. Among other things, the Act created the HCF and guaranteed the fund \$30 million annually for 30 years for the acquisition, restoration and enhancement of habitat necessary to protect wildlife and plant populations. In 2019, the Legislature and the Governor agreed to extend the annual allocation to the HCF through July 1, 2030.

Since the passage of Proposition 117 thirty-five years ago, HCF has proven to serve as a highly effective and efficient program for addressing California’s conservation efforts throughout the entire state. In fact, in the last decade alone, the HCF has protected and/or restored well over one million acres of deer and mountain lion habitat, wetlands, aquatic and riparian habitat, and wildlife corridors.

With the HCF now set to expire in 2030, your SB 427 would lift that sunset date and allow the important annual transfer of these funds into the HCF, and the critical benefits they provide to our wildlife and fishery resources, to continue in perpetuity.

The undersigned organizations are committed to the promotion and protection of our wildlife and their habitats. Maintaining the funding and integrity of the HCF is not only important to the health of our wildlife and fishery resources, it is essential to the quality of life of our public by providing enhanced access and recreational opportunity to California’s unique natural resources.

For all the above reasons, we thank you for your willingness to author this important legislation and are pleased to offer it our strong support.

Sincerely,

Don Martin, President  
California Chapter - Wild Sheep Foundation

Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Advocacy  
California Waterfowl Association

Lori Jacobs, President  
California Houndsmen for Conservation

Chriss Bowles President  
California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association

Marten Benatar, President  
California Hawking Club

Gary Brennan, President  
San Diego County Wildlife Federation

Rick Travis, Legislative Director  
California Rifle and Pistol Association

Steve Miller President  
Tulare Basin Wetlands Association

Ken Akins, President  
Sacramento Safari Club

Ryan Bronson, Director of Government Affairs  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Loyal Taylor, President  
Cal-Ore Wetland and Waterfowl Council

Candi Muse, President  
California State Chapter - National Wild Turkey Federation

Marc Engstrom, Director of Public Policy, California  
Ducks Unlimited

Bob Keagy, President  
Golden Gate Chapter – Safari Club International