



April 4, 2024

The Honorable Dave Min, Chair  
 Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
 1021 O Street, Room 3220  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1163 (Dahle): Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions: Wildlife Salvage Permits – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Min:

The undersigned wildlife conservation organizations urge your strong support for SB 1163 (Dahle) – legislation which would improve public safety and help protect our wildlife by reducing the frequency of vehicle-wildlife collisions by updating and requiring implementation of the “Wildlife Traffic Safety Act” pilot program codified in SB 395 (2019).

Statistics show that one out of every sixteen vehicular accidents in California involves wildlife. In addition to the vehicle damage, injury and even death suffered by motorists, millions of animals are killed annually on our roads. In fact, experts estimate that as many as 100,000 deer alone may be hit each year on California’s roadways.

Recognizing this, California has begun to take steps to improve public safety and promote wildlife health by funding research and programs which reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, reestablish habitat connectivity and corridors, and enhance wildlife movement by planning for the placement of roadway wildlife crossings. Identifying the most efficient locations for these crossings is critical to the health of California’s wildlife and the safety of our public. Yet, California does not currently have a means of effectively gathering the extensive data necessary to ensure the proper placement of these multi-million-dollar structures.

SB 1163 would fully address this concern by significantly improving the collection of data on the location of vehicle-wildlife collisions by requiring the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to produce a smartphone app that would allow motorists to report vehicle-wildlife collision data easily and in real-time. To further encourage data reporting, SB 1163 would also require the Fish and Game Commission, in consultation with DFW, CHP, Caltrans, and other relevant public entities, to create a pilot program that allows motorists to salvage edible portions of big game animals killed by vehicles – provided they obtain a permit and provide the necessary data to DFW. Similar laws and policies have passed and are already successfully in place in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and Montana.

Of equal importance, this much-needed program can be implemented in California at minimal cost to the state. According to representatives with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, their cost of implementation was negligible due to the smartphone app already being developed and requiring only

minor modification, and their salvage permit being self-reporting and not requiring any dedicated resources. It is also worth noting that Idaho has had well over 10,000 animals salvaged since their program began in 2012.

SB 1163 would significantly improve public safety and help protect wildlife by generating the data necessary to reduce the frequency of future vehicle-wildlife collisions – all at a nominal cost to the state. SB 1163 would also promote wildlife health and genetic diversity by promoting wildlife movement and migration via re-establishing habitat connectivity and corridors.

For all these reasons, we respectfully urge your strong support of SB 1163 when the bill comes before your Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Steve Jarvis, CEO  
California Deer Association

Don Martin, President  
California Chapter – Wild Sheep Foundation

Lori Jacobs, President  
California Houndsmen for Conservation

Gary F. Brennan, President  
San Diego County Wildlife Federation

Fred Harpster, President  
The Black Brant Group

Steve Miller, President  
Tulare Basin Wetlands Association

Adam Chavez, President  
California Hawking Club

Mark Hennelly, V.P. of Government Affairs  
California Waterfowl Association

Loyal Taylor, President  
Cal-Ore Wetland and Waterfowl Council

Chriss Bowles, President  
California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association

Rick Travis, Legislative Director  
California Rifle and Pistol Association

cc: Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
The Honorable Senator Brian Dahle