

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



September 6, 2012

RE: REQUEST FOR VETO – SB 1221 (Lieu)

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) strongly urges you to veto SB 1221 (Lieu), which would criminalize the hunting of bears and bobcats with dogs. Of greatest concern, SB 1221 circumvents the CEQA-based regulatory process of the California Fish and Game Commission, which was established specifically to determine the methods of take and legal seasons for hunting. The longstanding Commission process allows for public input but also ensures that science and all necessary biological information is fully considered in any proposed regulations. As a result of this approach, bear and bobcat populations are currently thriving in California.

Unfortunately, the Legislative process simply does not allow for such a comprehensive, biologically-based analysis. We believe that SB 1221 would not only inhibit the proper management of bear and bobcat populations, but also establish a dangerous precedent of setting hunting regulations via politics rather than the best available science.

Other reasons to oppose SB 1221 include the following:

- It would result in a significant loss of wildlife conservation revenues, including monies used for wardens and habitat enhancement purposes, which are generated by hunting licenses and associated tags. By leaving fewer legal hunters on public lands who aid wardens via CalTip reporting of poaching, marijuana cultivation and other illegal activities, the bill would also increase DFG's enforcement costs.
- Depredation damage from bears to timber lands, apiaries, farms and ranches costs California landowners millions of dollars each year. By leaving DFG with limited bear population management tools, SB 1221 would adversely impact certain rural businesses that generate significant sales tax revenues for the state and benefit local economies.
- SB 1221 was recently amended to authorize the imposition of a hound hunting tag and associated fee. In doing so, the bill would wrongly tax hunters who pursue other mammals, such as pigs, rabbits and raccoons, with dogs in order to pay for SB 1221's resulting loss of bear and bobcat-related hunting license and tag revenue.

In summary, SB 1221 is an anti-hunting measure with no scientific basis that deprives DFG of much-needed conservation and law enforcement revenue. Please veto this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Hennelly".

Mark Hennelly, Vice President, CWA Legislative Affairs and Public Policy