



April 23, 2018

The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair  
Senate Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2031  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1487 (Stern) - OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Skinner:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) opposes SB 1487 (Stern), which would criminalize the possession of certain African animals and their parts.

SB 1487 would wrongly criminalize the possession of many African wildlife species (and parts thereof) that are legally hunted by Californians in Africa. The funding generated by hunting not only supports the conservation of those wildlife species but contributes to the economies of local villages. By banning the possession of certain game species' parts, SB 1487 would only reduce important funding that supports African wildlife and local communities.

This bill creates a definition of "Iconic African Species" which is not based whatsoever on science or wildlife species' needs but rather arbitrary and emotional considerations. The author fails to recognize that many of the animals that would fall under this new definition are abundant and/or must be managed through regulated hunting.

SB 1487 would establish a dangerous precedent of banning the possession of legally hunted wildlife. While a primary goal of hunting is to procure meat for human consumption, parts of wildlife are also commonly used for taxidermy and other artistic purposes. This longstanding practice applies not only to large mammals, but small game, game birds and fish as well; in fact, many California sportsmen have taxidermied wildlife or fish in their homes.

Please also note that the penalty for a first offense under SB 1487 is fine from \$5000 to \$40,000 and up to a year in jail, just for the mere possession of wildlife parts that were legally taken.

For these reasons, please oppose SB 1487 when it is considered by your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Hennelly".

Mark Hennelly, Vice President  
California Waterfowl Association

Cc: Members, Senate Public Safety Committee