



March 10, 2021

The Honorable Senator Bill Dodd
State Capitol, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 370 – Big Game Management Account: Uses – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Dodd:

The undersigned non-profit wildlife conservation organizations which collectively represent hundreds of thousands of sportsmen and women, landowners and other wildlife enthusiasts across California are pleased to strongly support your SB 370 – legislation which would substantially enhance the ability of the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to manage and promote the health of all of California's big game species in public trust.

Since established in 2010, the Big Game Management Account (BGMA) has served to consolidate revenues generated from the purchase of antelope, elk, deer, wild pig, bear, and bighorn sheep hunting tags. The BGMA is then made available for use by DFW for land acquisition, projects and programs that benefit big game species and related public hunting opportunities and outreach.

Since the creation of the BGMA, DFW has partnered with both for-profit and non-profit entities to successfully execute the projects and programs necessary to carry out the purposes of their big game program. However, a 2020 audit of the BGMA by the Audit Branch of DFW determined that the statute which established the BGMA only allows DFW to enter into contracts or agreements with non-profits.

The ability of DFW to also enter into agreements with for-profits to implement necessary programs and projects is essential to the successful management and health of California's big game species. As just a few examples, important big game related efforts performed by for-profits that are now precluded by the audit's determination include helicopter surveys and captures of big game; research and analyses performed by universities which are not non-profits; and laboratory tooth analyses necessary to determine the age structures and health of big game populations.

Your legislation would address this serious concern by clarifying and ensuring that DFW has the authority to enter into contracts or other agreements with both for-profit and non-profit entities to deliver the important programs and projects needed to promote the health of California's big game species and their enjoyment by our public.

We thank you for your willingness to carry this critically needed legislation and look forward to working with you to secure its passage.

Sincerely,

Lori Jacobs, President
California Houndsmen for Conservation

Randall Walker, President
Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California

Adam Chavez, President
California Hawking Club

Blake Henning, Chief Conservation Officer
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Fred Harpster, President
Black Brant Group

Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Government Relations
California Waterfowl Association

Steve Miller, President
Tulare Basin Wetlands Association

Gary F. Brennan, President
San Diego County Wildlife Federation

Corey Thompson, President
Cal-Ore Wetland and Waterfowl Council

Chriss Bowles, President
California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association

James Stone, President
Nor-Cal Guides & Sportsmen's Association

Rick Travis, Director of Development
California Rifle & Pistol Association

Randall Walker, President
California Sportsman's Lobby

Lisa C. McNamee, Legislative Coordinator
California Chapters – Safari Club International

Cathie Nelson, President
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter - Safari Club International