



September 2, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
 Governor, State of California
 1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Submitted via email to Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov

Re: Requesting your signature on Assembly Bill 1788 (Bloom) – The California Ecosystems Protection Act

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the undersigned twenty organizations, we write to request your signature on Assembly Bill 1788 by Assemblymember Richard Bloom.

AB 1788 would place a moratorium on most uses of second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) until the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has completed a reevaluation of these toxic chemicals *and* the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) has determined that sufficient additional restrictions on use have been implemented to ensure that continued use of SGARs will not result in significant adverse effects to nontarget wildlife. We greatly appreciate the input your administration has provided over the past two years to develop the bill’s approach. We are pleased that AB 1788 was approved by the Senate (23-7) and the Assembly (53-17) with strong votes.

This bill is a lifeline to California’s wildlife, including the mountain lion that you have long supported the protection of. Rodenticide use is very clearly among the leading causes of mountain lion mortality in California – and we know that mountain lion subpopulations in Southern California and along the central coast are in trouble. Indeed, on April 16, 2020 the California Fish and Game Commission voted 5-0 to advance lions in these areas to candidacy for threatened status under the state’s Endangered Species Act. The Commission’s unanimous vote followed DFW’s finding that a strong body of scientific evidence indicates that listing may be warranted.

Adding to the urgency and necessity of this bill is the fact that the National Park Service announced less than a week ago that another mountain lion and bobcat were found dead due to these SGARs.

There are robust findings that SGARs are being found in the systems and tissues of mountain lions and other wildlife – causing direct and indirect mortality for many species. Mountain lions are among the most studied, and as an indicator species, threats to them alert us to the likely extent of threats both to other wildlife and to the environmental processes upon which people depend.

Too many of California’s wild animals are experiencing avoidable deaths due to rodenticide poisoning. Despite being prohibited for consumer use since 2014, SGARs continue to poison large numbers of non-targeted animals, according to DPR’s analysis of eleven different wildlife studies.

There are good alternatives to these poisons, and no good excuse for continuing their use when rodenticides kill animals like mountain lions, owls, hawks, eagles, bobcats, and coyotes that are nature’s natural rodent controls.

Assembly Bill 1788 takes important steps to dramatically reduce rodenticide use pending DPR’s re-evaluation and that such precautionary measures are needed to protect imperiled native wildlife.

For all these reasons, we respectfully request you sign Assembly Bill 1788.

Sincerely,

Elissa Blair
Advocacy Committee Chair / Treasurer
California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators

Melissa Romero
Legislative Affairs Manager
California League of Conservation Voters

Steven Evans
Wild Rivers Director
California Wilderness Coalition

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