



FRIENDS OF THE INYO

SINCE 1986

Caring for the Eastern Sierra

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for your signature on Assembly Bill 1788

Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the over 1000 members of Friends of the Inyo I write to request your signature of AB 1788.

This bill provides a common sense moratorium while the Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) and Department of Fish and Wildlife complete their review of these Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs).

The DPR recognized the dangerous effects of SGARs in 2014 when banning sale to consumers. However the state's restrictions to use by licensed applicators was unable to prevent the spread of these chemicals. Similar rates of poisoning continue to affect species after the ban as documented by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. SGARs commonly poison Mountain lions and other apex predators which are indicator species for the health of an ecosystem. Restricting sale in 2014 illustrated that licensed professionals do not have the information, techniques, or regulations to contain this new poison to its target.

SGARs also exacerbate community pest control problems by damaging natural checks on rodents. Multiple species naturally control these pests through predation such as owls, hawks, mountain lions, bobcats, and coyotes. When these predators fall ill they create an imbalanced ecosystem leaving an opportunity for population explosions of rats, mice, and other household invaders.

The Friends of the Inyo take pride in our scientific and collaborative based approach to management decisions. Chemical rodenticides affect all of California and our public lands, and we support this bill as a way to prevent harm to wildlife and our ecosystem. We are environmentalists who also recognize the importance of applying new science and methods to efficiently protect homes while containing toxins from escaping into the ecosystem. Several effective alternatives exist for containing or reducing rodent populations including traditional trapping and pest control methods that do not poison wildlife.

We urge you to sign Assembly Bill 1788 to protect California's most majestic species while supporting common sense governance.

Sincerely,

Michael Cleaver
Operations Director