



State Senator Henry Stern
Chair Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Capitol Room 5080
Sacramento, Ca 95814
senate.natural.resources@senate.ca.gov

June 28, 2019

RE: AB 1788 (Bloom): SUPPORT

Dear Senator Stern,

We, the signed organizations, are in support of AB 1788, the California Ecosystems Protection Act (Bloom), and urge you to support this legislation in the Natural Resources and Water Committee hearing on July 9th. This novel piece of legislation would prohibit the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) in California, a poisonous chemical that has helped us control rat populations at the cost of destroying our wildlife populations.

The situation is dire for California's wildlife. Rodenticides currently affect at least 38 of California species including mountain lions, bobcats, cooper's hawks, northern spotted owls, San Joaquin kit foxes, and pacific fishers. Studies analyzed by the Department of Pesticide Regulation have found SGARs in 90% of mountain lions, 88% of bobcats, and 85% of pacific fishers. Another study conducted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife found SGARS in 70%-90% of all of the tested wildlife. Mountain lions are especially affected by the presence of SGARs as evidenced by the deaths multiple mountain lions tracked but the National Parks Service, and by the near death of P-22 due to mange caused by SGARS exposure.

SGARs do not only plague our wildlife, but our children and pets as well. Estimates show that 15,000 children are exposed to rodenticide annually, especially children of minorities or those living in poverty. Additionally, over 100 pets die from eating the rodenticide each year. These deaths are unnecessary and can be avoided if the use of SGARs is prohibited in California.

We hope that you support this measure as a way to prioritize the lives of California's wildlife, children, and pets. As you aptly expressed at the Senate Environmental Quality hearing, "I will not be responsible for the extinction of mountain lions." There are plenty of ways to reduce rat populations without the use of rodenticides including sealing buildings, eliminating waste, or using snap traps, electric traps, and fertility control. We respectfully urge you and your colleagues to vote yes on AB 1788 at the Natural Resources and Water Committee Hearing.

Sincerely,



Howard Penn
Executive Director
Planning and Conservation League



Beth Pratt
Regional Executive Director, California
National Wildlife Federation