



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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January 27, 2015

Mr. Charlton Bonham, Director (email: director@wildlife.ca.gov)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

1416 9th Street, 12th Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director (email: fgc@fgc.ca.gov)

California Fish and Game Commission

1416 9th Street, Suite 1320

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Actions of the Fish and Game Commission, December 2014 meeting relative to implementation of AB 1213 (Chapter 748, statutes of 2013)

Dear Mr. Bonham and Mr. Mastrup:

The Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission has monitored AB 1213 since its introduction in February of 2013.

In reviewing the legislative history on this statute, it is important to note that the introduced version of the bill dated February 22, 2013 and an amended version of the bill dated March 19, 2013 banned the taking, selling or exportation of bobcats in California. These versions of the bill were unacceptable to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee at a hearing that occurred on April 2, 2013. The author was asked to amend the bill to narrow the focus to deal with his unique district issues. That language was amended on April 24, 2013 to accommodate the committee's concerns and that version of the bill advanced on April 29, 2013. It is important to retain this legislative history so that the law may be correctly interpreted as it moves to regulatory implementation.

As the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Fish and Game Commission are preparing implementation regulations for AB 1213, signed into law on October 11, 2013, we believe it is proper to follow up on the Governor's signing message for this bill (below):

In order to ensure appropriate implementation of this Act, I am asking the Legislature to work with my Department to secure funding to survey our bobcat population. Based on this work, the Department and the commission should consider setting population thresholds and bobcat tag limitations in its upcoming rulemaking.

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors object to the following:

1. Motion made by Commission Member Rogers and passed 3-2 to adopt an alternative to ban bobcat trapping in California.
2. Commission Member Rogers statement, "We should finish the job that the legislature didn't have the courage for and ban bobcat trapping." Commission Member Rogers appears to be in direct conflict with both the Governor and the State Legislature.
3. It appears there may be some unfairness as to equal testimony allotment: The testimony given by Mr. Mercer Lawing, Board Member of the California Trappers Association, the only scheduled testimony from the trapping stakeholders, was cut short by Commission President, Mr. Sutton. Yet Commission President Sutton allowed testimony from many individuals from the animal rights community, which were not science-based.
4. It is our understanding that any video presentations to be presented at commission meetings are to be pre-screened by commission staff.. Was the video presentation allowed by President Sutton pre-screened by commission staff? The video was very misleading as it showed bobcats in foothold traps that are currently prohibited in California.

It is critical to the credibility of the legislative process and the Department and Commission's roles that the correct facts guide the regulations which include both clear instructions on the funding element from the Governor and the Department of finance and the policy guidance the Legislature provided; and possibly most important, that equality to all stakeholders be afforded.

Ultimately, we request that the Commission motion to ban trapping as an alternative be rescinded.

We thank you for looking into this and look forward to your response. Responses should be directed to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, and cc'd to the Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission, P.O. Box 922, Ferndale, CA 95536.

Sincerely,



Estelle Fennell, Chair

CC: California Fish & Game Commission (email: fgc@fgc.ca.gov)

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

California Trappers Association: email to John Clark tjflint38@yahoo.com

Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate: email to lynch@lynchlobby.com