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California State Senate



**SENATOR
JIM NIELSEN**

FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

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VICE CHAIR
HEALTH
VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHAIR

February 11, 2015

California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

We, the undersigned, request that the California Fish and Game Commission not adopt regulations that would ban the trapping of bobcats statewide.

When AB 1213 (Chapter 748, Statutes of 2013) moved through the legislative process, a total statewide ban on the trapping of bobcats was proposed by the bill's sponsors and was debated by the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. The Committee rejected the complete ban proposal as there was no scientific wildlife management documentation from the Department of Fish and Wildlife to support it, no broad based public support for it, and no compelling reason to do it.

The Governor, in his signing message for AB 1213, called for a bobcat population survey to be funded by the Legislature working in cooperation with the Department. The Governor specified that the survey should be completed before regulations imposing limitations are adopted.

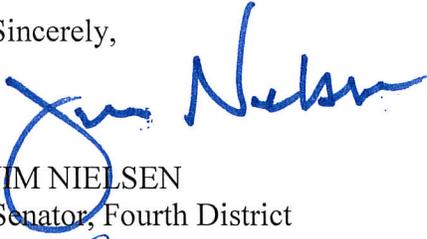
This process has not yet occurred and it would be premature to proceed with the proposed non-statutorily mandated bobcat trapping ban regulations before the survey is funded and completed. Such premature action by the Commission is contrary to the Governor's wishes and against the sound principles of scientific wildlife management.

Accordingly, the Commission is urged to take a well-reasoned scientific wildlife management approach to the implementation of AB 1213 that stays within the boundaries of AB 1213's provisions.

The Legislature specifically rejected a statewide ban on bobcat trapping when enacting the statute.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



JIM NIELSEN
Senator, Fourth District



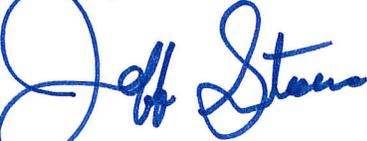
PAT BATES
Senator, Thirty-Sixth District



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Senator, First District



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KRISTIN OLSEN
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ANDY VIDAK
Senator, Fourteenth District



FRANK BIGELOW
Assemblymember, Fifth District



JAMES GALLAGHER
Assemblymember, Third District



JIM PATTERSON
Assemblymember, Twenty-Third District

cc: Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director, California Fish and Game Commission
Mr. Charlton Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.