



April 14, 2017

Assemblymember Richard Bloom
State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0050

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 8

Dear Assemblymember Bloom,

As professional wildlife rehabilitators and humane wildlife control technicians, we thank you for authoring Assembly Bill 8 (AB 8) that will allow the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to use a wider variety of methods for responding to mountain lion depredation on domestic animals. AB 8 will give wardens and biologists greater flexibility to address the underlying causes of each depredation incident.

As organizations that provide care for injured and orphaned native wildlife, we support the use of non-injurious means of resolving wildlife conflicts. As trade professionals, with decades of field experience, we know that non-lethal and preventive measures are far more effective and long-lasting than removal of individual animals.

Often, the wrong lion is killed. Results from necropsies on lions killed under depredation permits found that only a fraction of the lions could be identified as an offending animal.

Depredation permits also result in orphaning of dependent young. Mountain lion kittens stay with their mothers for up to two years. Kittens too young to fend for themselves either die of starvation or turn to easy prey to survive, causing further conflict with people.

Unfortunately, the rehabilitation and re-wilding of mountain lions is currently prohibited by law in California. What that means is that in the event a young orphaned kitten is captured, there are only two possible outcomes - euthanasia or a life in captivity. There are more tools in the toolkit

and CDFW should be empowered to work with property owners and rely on the best available options in any given situation.

We believe AB 8 will help reduce the number of lions killed by allowing wardens and biologists the flexibility to address the root cause of lion conflicts, which will also result in reduced property damage and loss. We see this as a win-win, and strongly support AB 8.

Sincerely,

Vann Masvidal
President
California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators

Jennifer Brent
Executive Director
California Wildlife Center

Dave Thraen
Executive Director
All Wildlife Rescue & Education

Julia DiSieno
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Battle Creek Alliance & Defiance Canyon
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Ann Bryant
Executive Director
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Louise Culver
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Norma Campbell
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Rebecca Dmytryk
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