

August 13, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom Governor
State of California
Sacramento, CA 95814
ATTN: Legislative Unit

SUPPORT STATEMENT: AB 273 – Fur Trapping Prohibition

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of PawPAC, I write to **support Assembly Bill 273** by Lorena Gonzalez, to prohibit the commercial and sport trapping of California's nongame and fur-bearing mammals. It is an idea whose time is ripe.

As you know, West Hollywood, Berkeley, San Francisco and Los Angeles have implemented fur bans, yet these city councils have had to do creative workarounds because of state law. AB 273 is consistent with California's progressive stance on animal welfare issues, and brings the state into accord with its most progressive cities. Your signing message for SB 307 (Cadiz/Mojave) is a great omen for wildlife bills like AB 273, and we have high hopes as we eagerly await your influence on California animal welfare.

As for revenue for the DFW, the sale fur licenses has dramatically declined over the last several decades, making fur trade and sport no longer a viable, sustainable program. Thirty years ago, the Department of Fish and Game reported, from 1,370 trapping licenses sold, "Revenue received by trappers from the sale of furs during the 1987-88 season, based on average prices paid by fur buyers, was \$1,513,803.25," which was only nearly half that of the decade before (\$2.4M), therefore trapping and the fur trade was already on a decline. From the 1988 to the mid nineties, the sale of trapping licenses dropped by a staggering 88%. By 2018, only 133 licenses had been purchased, less than 10% of the 1988 benchmark, and with a mere \$10,595 in statewide revenue received from trappers.

It's not just our cities that have dropped fur. The major fashion designers have left fur out of the equation: Ralph Lauren, Armani, Gucci, Michael Kors and Versace, just to name a few. Eighteen European countries have banned fur, and in the last few years, Japan, India and New Zealand have followed suit. Now you, Governor Newsom, as the leader of the fifth largest economy in the world, are poised to make this important ethical statement for California, and by so doing would turn over a new leaf for our state with respect to hunting. We cannot wait!

Gratefully,

René Rowland, Chair
PawPAC



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