

March 17, 2019

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chair
California State Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE AB 527: OPPOSITION STATEMENT

Dear Assemblymember Garcia and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of PawPAC, I write in **strong opposition to Assembly Bill 527**, authored by member Randy Voepel, to allow the importation of crocodile and alligator dead body and parts into California after December 31 of this year. Since 2006, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has sponsored and/or promoted a series of California bills—AB 1475 (2006, Hollingsworth), SB 609 (2009, Hollingsworth) and AB 2075 (2014, Alejo)—to continue its multi-million dollar alligator industry. According to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries website, alligator hunters annually kill 28,000 wild alligators and 280,000 farmed alligators to bring \$57M for raw meat and hides, with a total of over \$100M taken in for alligators, including jobs and related interests to the industry ***in the name of conservation of the species***. The state's lobbyist contacted PawPAC to educate our committee on the benefits of conservation.

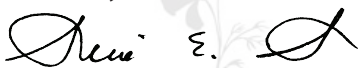
It is PawPAC's position that the artificial proliferation of a species—similar to what takes place in our factory farms—is not an honest recovery of that species, because the animals are raised for the purpose of exploitation. In other words, they are born for the purpose of dying, with a great deal of suffering along the way. We further state that this "conservation," which is important enough to reach across state boundaries, exists to use animal species as a "resource" for revenue; therefore all arguments from the sponsor about conservation are moot with PawPAC. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has undergone criticism for using false data on the recovery of the alligator, most notably dating back to the Joanen Report of 1974 (Ted Joanen, biologist employed by the State of Louisiana), which led to the premature delisting of the Alligator mississippiensis. There is a long history of environmental rhetoric used to promote what matters most: profit.

From what is that profit made? Luxuries like purses, boots and exotic meats. Last week, AB 273 and AB 44 were passed by this committee, both of which address the unnecessary cruelty of animals for mere luxuries. California, the progressive leader, will conduct its business ethically. In other words: Ethics Before Enterprise.

Committee, we urge your vote for ethics: VOTE NO on AB 527.

Please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for the opportunity to speak for those who otherwise have no voice.

Sincerely,



René Rowland, Chair
PawPAC

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