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July 8, 2019

The Honorable Brian Dahle
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB1254 Bobcat Take Prohibition - OPPOSE

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors would like to thank you for your opposition of AB 1254 (Kamlager-Dove) prohibiting hunting bobcat. This bill would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to not have a bobcat hunting season until and unless the department has developed, upon appropriation by the legislature, a bobcat management plan to be prepared at an estimated State general fund cost of \$2.5 million.

Existing law delegates to the State Fish and Game Commission the power to regulate the hunting of bobcats. Under the commission's existing authority, total hunter harvest of bobcats is very low, 331 individuals in the 2017-18 season (as determined through assessment of mandatory hunter tag returns from successful bobcat hunters). Commercial trappers and commercial hunters take was zero. Bobcats may not be taken by fur trappers since the November 2015 implementation of the Bobcat Protection Act of 2013 which prohibits trapping.

AB 1254 is not necessary for the commission to successfully regulate sport hunting. The data on the harvest of bobcats (through existing regulatory authority granted to the commission) seems to be working and successfully limiting harvesting of bobcats by licensed hunters during a very short hunting season; reporting hunting success of only 2.8% of a total of 11,988 tags sold.

AB1254 will be costly to the state's general fund. The fiscal effect from a cost estimate by the Assembly Committee on Appropriations analysis has reported and estimated a "cost of up to \$2.5 million to develop and implement a bobcat management plan (General Fund)." It was also estimated by the analysis that the "loss of revenue of \$35,000 per year for five years from bobcat hunting tags (special fund)." Tags purchased by hunters generate funding for wardens, habitat enhancement and other wildlife conservation programs.

We greatly appreciate your opposition of AB 1254.

Sincerely,

JEFF HEMPHILL, Chairman Lassen County Board of Supervisors