



CITIZENS FOR
LOS ANGELES
WILDLIFE

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October 4, 2017

Honorable Assembly Member Bill Quirk, Chair
Committee on Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials (ESTM)
1020 N. Street, Room 171
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1687 (Bloom) Rodenticides

Honorable Chairperson Quirk and the ESTM Committee:

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) is a non-profit environmental advocacy organization concerned with the well being of wildlife and wildlife habitat for the City of Los Angeles and beyond. A citizenry of more 3000 individuals now supports our organization's multiple calls for biodiverse practices and policy to benefit LA City, County, California and the Globe. Since its inception, CLAW has been educating the public in Los Angeles about the dangers of anticoagulant rodenticides, and has worked with Los Angeles in order to reduce the use of these poisons. In fact, our work with Los Angeles City Council and the Department of Recreation and Parks stopped the use of second generation anticoagulant rodenticide in all 16,000 acres of LA City Parkland.

CLAW has seen the effects of anticoagulants on wildlife first hand, and has received numerous calls about owls and hawks falling dead in the hillsides, bleeding internally as a result of secondary poisoning. Coyotes have also been discovered with internal bleeding due to secondary and even tertiary poisoning. This continues despite the current restrictions on second generation rodenticides in California, proving that further steps are needed to protect California wildlife.

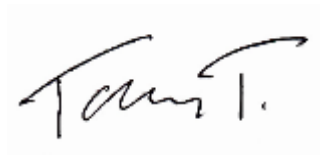
Rodenticide is not a solution to pest problems. In fact, ample evidence shows rodenticide has a counterproductive effect on pest control by weakening and killing natural predators of rodents. Integrated pest management, which includes sealing entrances and removing attractants for rodents, stops pest problems from occurring, and options such as electronic rat traps provide non-toxic lethal alternatives to rodenticide.

Numerous studies have shown that the use of rodenticides has a deleterious effect on the health of non-target wildlife. Rats who ingest poison do not die immediately, but become slow and less alert, making them easy

prey for nearby predators. By consuming the rats, these predators become the victims of secondary poisoning, which has been linked to increased risks for diseases such as mange, as well as increased susceptibility to predation and automobile collisions. In California, exposure to rodenticide has been found in at least 16 species of birds, and 13 species of mammals, including the endangered San Joaquin kit fox. Studies of wild animals in California have found that nearly 75% test positive for rodenticide. In habitat that is close to urban areas, percentages can be even higher, with exposure found in 92% of bobcats, and over 90% of mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains region.

The numbers show that our wildlife is facing a crisis, and AB 1687 offers a solution to this crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony T.", is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Tony Tucci,
Chair, Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife

CC: Assembly Member Richard Bloom