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March 25, 2019

The Honorable Brian Maienschein  
State Capitol, Room 4208  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1260 (Maienschein): Ban on Exotic Skins – Support**

Dear Assemblymember Maienschein:

I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 1260 and to thank you for introducing this important legislation.

Currently, thousands of caiman, stingray, sharks, various lizards, and other species of exotic animals are killed for their skins each year. These animals suffer greatly for the sake of fashion and vanity, even while alternatives exist. Often these animals are skinned while alive, sometimes taking hours to die because of their slow metabolisms. They are kept their entire short lives in dirty, shallow pools of water without basic veterinary care. Furthermore, while the skins of some lizards reportedly come from captive-bred animals, many of the ones so labelled actually come from animals who were captured in the wild and laundered.

Luckily, today there is broad array of luxurious cruelty-free materials available for use. Companies even sell embossed vegan leather that looks and feels like exotic skin, without the cruelty. Several large retailers have already led the charge in banning these skins, including Chanel, Ann Taylor, H&M, Adidas, and Victoria's Secret, to name a few.

There is simply no justification for using the skin of exotic animals. This bill would take an important next step in reducing the needless pain and suffering of animals by banning the import and sale of these skins within California.

Sincerely,