

March 1, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 273 – Ban on Fur Trapping – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez-Fletcher:

I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 273 (Gonzalez-Fletcher), which would prohibit fur trapping and the sale of raw fur in California.

Historically, trapping for fur was a large industry in California. However, the harmful effects of trapping on the wildlife population go back to the early 1800s when the sea otter populations along the San Francisco Bay and North Coast were decimated. Fur trapping has also played a role in the decline of wolves, wolverines, fishers, martens and beavers in California.

Today, fur trapping in California is done on an extremely small-scale relative to its heydays in the 1800s, with only around 130 licenses sold, and an average income of \$156 per successful trapper.

However, it continues to be an inherently cruel and inhumane practice for the foxes, coyotes, badgers, skunks, muskrats, weasels, raccoons, opossums and beavers that are trapped. Animals may be beaten to death after being trapped in order to avoid damaging the fur. Most animals suffer immensely while awaiting their fate in the trap due to dehydration, blood loss or hypothermia.

Fur trapping can also have unintended consequences, such as killing pets or protected wildlife, since traps are not able to discriminate what species are caught.

AB 273 would protect California's native wildlife from a cruel and outdated practice. I thank you for carrying this important measure and urge all of your legislative colleagues to vote yes on AB 273.

Sincerely,