



May 10, 2019

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino, Chair  
 Senate Appropriations Committee  
 State Capitol, Room 2206  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 474: Habitat Conservation Fund—SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Portantino,

The undersigned wildlife conservation organizations urge your strong support of SB 474 (Stern) – legislation which extend the Habitat Conservation Fund for 30 years, until January 1, 2051.

In June 1990, the voters of California passed Proposition 117, “The California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990”. Among other things, the Act created the “Habitat Conservation Fund” (HCF) and guaranteed the fund \$30 million annually for 30 years for the acquisition, restoration and enhancement of habitat necessary to protect wildlife and plant populations. Without the passage of subsequent legislation which extends this 30-year funding period, the HCF will sunset on July 1, 2020.

Over the past three decades, the HCF has proven to serve as a highly effective and efficient program for addressing California’s conservation efforts throughout the entire state. In fact, in the last ten years alone, the HCF has protected:

- 95,000 acres of deer and mountain lion habitat;
- 243,000 acres of listed species habitat;
- 291,000 acres of wetland habitat;
- 324,000 acres of aquatic or riparian habitat;
- 75,000 acres of wildlife corridors or trails.

The restoration, enhancement and preservation of these areas not only provides critically needed habitats for California’s wildlife and fishery species, but also is critical to maintaining quality of life for California’s public by providing enhanced access and recreational opportunity for our members, as well as others who enjoy California’s unique natural resources.

Since 1990, the Habitat Conservation Fund and its \$30 million in annual funding has served as an important component of California’s wildlife and fishery conservation efforts. As our population continues to grow, it becomes increasingly important that this dedicated annual funding stream remain

available to address our state's natural resource concerns, and the quality of life and recreational opportunity they provide California's public.

For all the above reasons, we strongly urge your support for SB 474 (Stern) and the 30-year extension this legislation would provide to the HCF when the bill comes before your committee in the near future.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Kyle Weaver, President and CEO  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Donn Walgamuth, President  
California Deer Association

Gary F. Brennan, President  
San Diego County Wildlife Federation

Aoibheann Cline, Western States Coordinator  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Dennis Slater, President  
Tulare Basin Wetlands Association

Don Kirby, President  
Cal-Ore Wetland and Waterfowl Council

Chriss Bowles, President  
California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association

Dawnita Harwood, President  
California State Chapter – National Wild Turkey Federation

Rick Travis, Executive Director  
California Rifle and Pistol Association

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Senator Henry I. Stern