April 3, 2015

Executive Director Sonke Mastrup
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
Email: fgc@fgc.ca.gov
Fax: (916) 653-5040

Re: Statewide Bobcat Trapping Ban request

Dear Mr. Mastrup:

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, Inc. (CLAW) is a non-profit advocacy group whose mission is to promote, educate and protect the fundamental importance of wildlife, wildlife corridors and wildlife habitats everywhere. Within the City of Los Angeles, CLAW is working closely with citizens to protect all of our species – particularly our predators that are important for the balance of our ecosystem. Therefore, we strongly urge you to ban bobcat trapping for anything other than rehabilitation or research.

We spoke to the commission on February 12, 2015 and pointed out that “harvesting” bobcats is not for nutritional sustenance but for the vanity purchase of fur in other countries. The trapping of bobcats is cruel and unnecessary. Trapped bobcats are generally clubbed and/or suffocated to death (bullets damage the pelt). Although it is less than 100 trappers participating in this brutal practice they are being subsidized by tax payers. Our natural resources and wildlife are public assets, and not for the profit of a few.

As the earth’s population continues to grow the urban infill will continue to increase and the bobcat’s range will continue to be impacted. Add to urban sprawl other wildlife detriment like pollution, pesticides and poisons, we are at a tipping point for the ongoing well-being of our native predators. According to studies by UCLA, 95% of the bobcats tested in the Santa Monica Mountains have been poisoned by rodent poison. We need to be working to increase the strength of these species not reduce for profit.

For these reasons, CLAW strongly supports a statewide ban on bobcat trapping.

Sincerely,



Alison Simard
Chair, Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW)

cc. Beth Pratt, National Wildlife Federation, prattb@nwf.org