



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains

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March 19, 2019

To: Members of the California Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

Subject: Support for AB 1788 (California Ecosystems Protection Act)

SSMPA writes **in support of AB 1788**, introduced by Assembly Member Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica). The bill will ban second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) in California—the most toxic, “one-feeding kills” poisons—as well as first generation anticoagulants (FGARs) on state-owned properties.

Since the California Department of Pesticide Regulation banned second generation anticoagulants to consumers, nearly five years ago, there has been no decrease in the rate of wildlife poisoning from these products. The ongoing use of rodenticides by licensed pest control companies allows for the “Chain of Death” to continue to kill non-target wildlife (and even pets) who consume the targeted rodents.

Continued testing and evidence show that a consumer ban on SGARs alone is insufficient to protect California’s ecosystems. Further steps must be taken. AB 1788 will ensure that use of these harmful toxins is completely prohibited in the State of California. More effective and efficient ways to address rodent infestations are available.

AB 1788 will eliminate the use of dangerous poisons on State properties, many of which are home to wildlife, through the additional prohibition on the use of FGARs on state-owned properties. While SGARs have higher toxicity than prior generations, both first and second generation anticoagulants are responsible for wildlife deaths and “sublethal” impacts that affect the ability of wildlife to survive and thrive.

In addition to harming wildlife, anticoagulants rodenticides pose an unreasonable risk to children who may accidentally ingest these highly toxic poisons. Between 1999 and 2009, the American Association of Poison Control Centers received reports of an average of 17,000 human exposures to rodenticides each year, with 85% of these exposures, (i.e., approximately 15,000 per year), occurring to children less than 6 years of age.

The scientific evidence is clear that anticoagulant rodenticides have a massive impact on California’s ecosystems and the state must act now to prevent the continued degradation of our wildlife and environment.

California can continue to be a leader on environmental protection and animal welfare through the passage of AB 1788. SSMPA urges you to support AB1788 and protect the health of California’s natural ecosystems and the web of existence.

Sincerely,



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Cc: SSMPA Board of Directors

About Santa Susana Mountain Park Association:

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association is a 45 year-old non-profit organization based in Chatsworth, Los Angeles, California.

We represent approximately 700 members and concerned citizens, and we partner with many organizations to promote ecological and recreational quality in Southern California.

SSMPA's mission is to preserve and protect the Simi Hills, Santa Susana Mountains, and regional open space.

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