



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

September 18, 2012

Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 1221 (Lieu)

Dear Governor Brown,

We are writing to ask for your support of an important animal welfare policy that will protect dogs, bears, and bobcats from cruelty. Your enactment of Senate Bill 1221 (Lieu) will bring California in line with other major hunting states around the country that prohibit the inhumane and unsporting use of dogs to chase and kill large mammals.

Hound hunting is an unnecessary and cruel practice, opposed by a vast majority of Californians, in which dogs are fitted with high-tech radio devices that allow bear and bobcat trophy hunters to follow the pursuit remotely. Dogs are released to chase frightened wild animals often for miles, across all types of habitat, including forests, private property and into national parks. Dogs pursue their target until the exhausted animal climbs a tree to escape or turns to confront the dog pack. The trophy hunter then arrives to the scene and often shoots the animal off a tree branch at point-blank range.

Fourteen states—including Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington—allow bear hunting but prohibit hounding. Montana's wildlife management officials consider prohibiting bear hounding a feature of the state's "fair chase" principles. A bear hunting guide in Washington recently noted that fewer mother bears with cubs get shot since hounding has been discontinued. These states have demonstrated that hounding does not serve any wildlife management purpose and is unnecessary.

We urge you to sign this important piece of legislation to protect wildlife and dogs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Doris Day

Ellen DeGeneres

Kristin Bauer van Straten

Kristen Bell

James Cromwell

Portia de Rossi

Peter Dinklage

Hilary Duff

Fiona Gubelmann

Jon Huertas

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