



CITY COUNCILMEMBER
RIGEL ROBINSON
 DISTRICT 7

CONSENT CALENDAR
 April 23, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmembers Rigel Robinson and Kate Harrison
 Subject: Support for AB 273 and AB 44: Prohibit Fur Trapping and Sales

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution supporting Fish and Game Code amendment AB 273, which prohibits the trapping of fur-bearing and nongame mammals for recreational or commercial purposes, and AB 44, which amends the Fish and Game Code to prohibit the sale of fur products statewide.

BACKGROUND

Introduced on January 24, 2019 by Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez, the Wildlife Protection Act of 2019 (AB 273) proposes a series of amendments to the Fish and Game Code. By limiting the distribution of trapping licenses and eliminating fur dealer and fur agent licenses entirely, the Act seeks to combat the exploitation of native California mammals.

Introduced on December 03, 2018 by Assemblymember Laura Friedman, the Fur Products Prohibition Act (AB 44) proposes a prohibition on the manufacture or sale of fur products throughout the state. Imposing this ban would allow California to take a lead on this issue nationally, by becoming the first state to do so. As the second of several prominent California cities to have already taken this step, the City of Berkeley should support the proposal.

AB 273 and AB 44 both reflect the majority support for animal rights expressed by state voters at the ballot box, most recently in the 2018 passage of Proposition 12, which set humane confinement standards for fowl and livestock.

The attached letters state the City of Berkeley's endorsement of the proposed Code amendments. Copies will be sent to Senator Nancy Skinner, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, and the bills' authors, Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez and Assemblymember Laura Friedman.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Consistent with the City's environmental goals.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Rigel Robinson, (510) 981-7170
Mars Svec-Burdick, Intern

Attachments:

1: Letter of support to Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez

2: Letter of support to Assemblymember Laura Friedman

3: Bill Text -

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB273

4: Bill Text -

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB44

April 23, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 273 (Gonzales) – Wildlife Protection Act
Support from the Berkeley City Council

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez,

The Berkeley City Council would like to convey its full support for your bill AB 273, which seeks to protect native species by limiting the trapping of animals statewide.

The production process of commercial fur products entails varying and extensive forms of recognized animal cruelty, in addition to causing the decline of native species populations. Fur trade industry values are inconsistent with the standards of humane, sustainable, and dignified treatment of commercially used fur-bearing mammals.

Under current law, the manufacture and sale of fur is already prohibited in major metropolitan areas of the state, reflecting the electorate's withdrawal of support from the practice. The Wildlife Protection Act of 2019 is an important and necessary reform because it updates the Fish and Game Code to impose stricter controls pre-manufacturing, by limiting the distribution of trapping licenses and eliminating fur dealer and fur agent licenses entirely.

The proposed amendments to the Fish and Game Code are consistent with the City of Berkeley's local effort to ban fur products, and represent an important step towards ensuring the conservation of native species.

Thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation, and striving to protect California wildlife.

Respectfully,
Berkeley City Council

CC: Senator Nancy Skinner
Assembly Member Buffy Wicks

April 23, 2019

The Honorable Laura Friedman
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2137
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 44 (Friedman) - Fur Products Prohibition Act
Support from the Berkeley City Council

Dear Assemblymember Friedman,

The Berkeley City Council would like to convey its full support for AB 44, which seeks to protect native species by limiting the trapping, manufacture, and sale of fur products statewide.

The production process of commercial fur products entails varying and extensive forms of recognized animal cruelty, in addition to causing the decline of native species populations. Fur trade industry values are inconsistent with the standards of humane, sustainable, and dignified treatment of commercially used fur-bearing mammals.

Under current law, the manufacture and sale of fur is already prohibited in major metropolitan areas of the state, reflecting the electorate's withdrawal of support from the practice. The Fur Products Prohibition Act is an important and necessary reform because it will have even wider impact, by updating the Fish and Game Code to prohibit the manufacture or sale of fur products throughout the whole state.

The proposed amendments to the Fish and Game Code are consistent with the City of Berkeley's local effort to ban fur products, and represent an important step towards ensuring the conservation of native species.

Thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation, and striving to protect California wildlife.

Respectfully,
Berkeley City Council

CC: Senator Nancy Skinner
Assembly Member Buffy Wicks