SUPPORT CALIFORNIA AB 1788 (BLOOM)

WHAT WILL THIS BILL DO?

Authored by Assemblymember Richard Bloom, and sponsored by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Center for Biological Diversity, and Raptors Are The Solution (RATS), AB 1788 bans the use of second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) throughout the state, except for agricultural use or by special permit. These are the most toxic – “one feeding kills” – poisons that stay in rodents’ systems long after death and contaminate the food chain, poisoning California’s iconic wildlife.

AB 1788 ALSO WOULD BAN THE USE OF FIRST GENERATION ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES (FGARS) ON ALL STATE-OWNED LAND

California could become the first state to prohibit these cruel products.

These persistent poisons are first consumed by rats, who in turn are consumed by other wildlife, resulting in secondary poisoning and contamination of the food chain.

WHY IS THIS BILL NEEDED?

California’s wildlife is being poisoned. Anticoagulant poisoning has been documented in numerous California wildlife species, including: coyotes, San Joaquin kit foxes, black bears, raccoons, mountain lions, bald eagles, great-horned owls, skunks, and bobcats. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation’s analysis of 11 wildlife studies determined these dangerous poisons have been found in 88% of tested bobcats, more than 90% of tested mountain lions, and 40% of tested barred owls.
Anticoagulant rodenticides disrupt normal blood clotting by interfering with the vitamin K cycle. Animals who consume these poisons suffer from uncontrolled bleeding and ultimately may die.

In 2014, California banned consumer use of second generation anticoagulant rodenticides. But mountain lions are still dying. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s database of mountain lion deaths reveals anticoagulant rodenticides were found in the livers of 63 out of 68 deceased mountain lions between 2015 and 2016.

Children and companion animals are particularly vulnerable to rodenticide poisoning. Young children routinely consume poison intended for rodents, confusing the bait for food. Similarly companion animals either consume the bait directly or consume poisoned rodents.

AB 1788 is authored by Assemblymember Richard Bloom, co-authored by Assemblymember Laura Friedman, and supported by: