



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
CALIFORNIA

May 16, 2024

**RE: Support for AB 1889**

Dear Assembly Member Friedman,

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) is a 501c3 non-profit that seeks to ensure North America's outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting through education and work on behalf of fish, wildlife, and wild places. With chapters in 49 states, Washington D.C., two Canadian provinces and one Canadian territory, as well as close to 400,000 supporters, BHA attracts sportsmen, women, and other public land users from across the continent. As the voice for our wild public lands, waters, and wildlife, BHA is dedicated to restoration and conservation efforts that conserve vital ecosystem functions and expand public access for hunting and fishing.

The exploding population of our state has resulted in a dramatic decline of habitat for almost all kinds of wildlife species. Even worse, populations existing in protected habitat are often cut off from accessing their historic range, resulting in less genetic diversity and more vulnerable populations. Habitat connectivity is a key element of addressing the future health of all wildlife and must be emphasized now to ensure the longevity of our North American hunting and fishing traditions.

AB 1889 would require cities and counties across the state to start considering connectivity of natural landscapes and habitats in their comprehensive general plans. This bill would help prioritize connectivity across the state, leading to an increase in the linkage of wildlife and habitat. Hunters, anglers, and Californians of all kinds want to see healthy, robust populations of wildlife across the state. Prioritizing connectivity at the county and city planning levels will help a variety of game and non-game species by linking key habitats and protecting existing wildlife corridors. As the voice for our public lands, waters, and wildlife, the California Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers supports AB 1889 and recommends its passage.

Thank you for your commitment to the conservation of California's wildlife and habitat.

Sincerely,

Eric Hanson  
California Chapter Co-Chair  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers



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[WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/CALIFORNIA\\_BHA](http://WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/CALIFORNIA_BHA)  
[CHAPTER@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG](mailto:CHAPTER@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG)