



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS
CALIFORNIA**

May 7, 2024

RE: Support for SB 1163

Dear Senator Dahle,

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.

As you are undoubtedly aware, existing law authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a pilot program to collect and compile information and data on wildlife-vehicle collisions to support certain wildlife conservation efforts. Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) would like to express our support for the establishment of a permitting process for roadkill salvage in California. As concerned citizens and avid advocates for wildlife conservation, we believe that such a program would provide a myriad of benefits to our state.

First, roadkill salvage can contribute to the greater ecological good by reducing the likelihood of additional (scavenger) wildlife casualties from vehicular collisions. By allowing individuals to legally collect and utilize roadkill, we can prevent the waste of valuable resources and potentially inform roadway decisions that reduce the overall number of animals killed on our roads.

Secondly, roadkill salvage can contribute to scientific research and public safety. By collecting data on roadkill incidents, we grant citizen scientists the ability to gain and share valuable insights into wildlife mortality patterns, habitat use, and the effectiveness of mitigation measures. This information can be used to tailor traffic signage, wildlife crossings, and sound management decisions, as well as to educate the public about the importance of wildlife conservation.

SB 1163 would mandate the development of a pilot program that can begin to provide these benefits to our state. CA BHA applauds this legislation's proactive stance on roadkill permitting and believes that the implementation of this bill will lead to considerable benefits to the wildlife conservation community. We support the passage of SB 1163.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing wildlife conservation in the state of California.

Sincerely,

Eric Hanson
California Chapter Co-Chair
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers



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