



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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May 26, 2022

The Honorable Bill Dodd
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 856 (Dodd): Wild pigs: validations – SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Senator Dodd:

On behalf of San Luis Obispo County farmers and ranchers, I write to inform you that San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau supports Senate Bill 856 if amended to provide greater certainty that existing enclosed hunting preserves will be allowed to remain in operation after the bill takes effect.

We appreciate your efforts to address the concerns we have raised regarding SB 856. As introduced, SB 856 would have abrogated farmers', ranchers', and other property owners' right to immediately take a wild pig damaging property when that property damage occurs at nighttime, instead requiring property owners to give the California Department of Fish & Wildlife 24-hours' notice before taking property damaging pigs at night. Amendments taken in the Senate Appropriations Committee address this issue by eliminating the requirement to provide 24 hours' notice to CDFW, restoring a farmer or rancher's ability to immediately take property damaging pigs.

Our organization also raised concerns with a provision of SB 856 which would have prohibited the operation of an enclosed hunting preserve. These preserves provide a valuable service for wounded warriors, new and inexperienced hunters, the elderly, and several other constituencies. These preserves are a source of non-farm income for a small number of farmers and ranchers, providing a hedge against the financial risk and uncertainty inherent in farming and ranching. Given the important role that these enclosed hunting preserves serve for farmers, ranchers, sportsmen, and the communities in which they are located, our organizations are appreciative of amendments taken on the Senate Floor which would "grandfather" enclosed hunting preserves in operation as of January 1, 2022.

Unfortunately, we believe the Senate Floor amendments are ambiguous, and it is not clear under what circumstances an enclosed hunting preserve will be deemed to have been "in operation" as of January 1, 2022. Due to that ambiguity, we cannot at this time support SB 856. Given your commitment to work with our organization in the Assembly to clarify this ambiguity and provide operational certainty to operators of enclosed hunting preserves, however, we are pleased to support SB 856 if amended to clarify that individuals who operated enclosed hunting preserves prior to January 1, 2022 will be permitted to continue those business operations subsequent to SB 856 becoming law. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to clarify that language as the bill is considered in the second house. Please contact me or California Farm Bureau government affairs staff Katie Little if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Brent Burchett, Executive Director
San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau