January 3, 2013

Senator Darrell Steinberg
Chair, Senate Rules Committee
The State Capital, Room 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Confirmation of Fish and Game Commissioner Jim Kellogg -- OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Steinberg, President Pro Tem:

The Mountain Lion Foundation strongly opposes the confirmation of Mr. Kellogg to an additional term on the California Fish and Game Commission.

During his previous tenure as a Commissioner as well as Commission President, Mr. Kellogg has repeatedly failed to comply with state law; specifically Fish and Game Code 4807 (b), where the Commission is required to report to the California State Legislature no later than January 15th of each year as to the number and condition of all mountain lions killed during the previous year under depredation permits issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Mountain lions were designated as a Specially Protected Mammal by California’s voters and this report plays an important part in assuring the citizens that the Department of Fish and Wildlife is complying with conditions and restrictions set forth under Proposition 117. The Commission’s last submitted report to the California State Legislature on this issue was for the year 2005.

When the Mountain Lion Foundation inquired as to why the required reporting had not occurred, we were informed by the Commission that their failure to comply with state law was a result of the Department not providing them with the required information. It is MLF’s contention that Commissioner Jim Kellogg, during his previous term as Commission President, failed to meet his legal obligation either through incompetence in not demanding said information from the Department, or willful obstructionism: working to deny public awareness as to the true status of mountain lions and the improper issuance of depredation permits. Either way, Mr. Kellogg has proven himself unworthy of representing Californians in this critical post.

Sincerely,

Tim Dunbar
Executive Director