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Governor

Sonke Mastrup
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
(916) 653-4899
(916) 653-5040 Fax
fgc@fgc.ca.gov

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Fish and Game Commission

February 28, 2012

The Honorable Ben Hueso
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Hueso:

Do you really think a California Commissioner is actually obligated to follow California laws across these United States? Really?

Did I try to change California's laws subversively? Did I encourage anyone to circumvent our rules and regulations? Have I ever suggest any changes to Prop 117? No, of course not. While I respect our Fish and Game rules and regulations, my 100 percent legal activity outside of California, or anyone else's for that matter, is none of your business.

And so we're perfectly clear, this hunt was not a high fence hunt, we didn't use 4 wheel drive trucks, snow machines or ATVs to chase the cat, I did not use a high powered rifle with a scope at 300 yards and we did dine on Mountain Lion for dinner, all contrary to so many erroneous reports. My compensation on the Commission is \$100.00 per meeting not the \$100,000.00 some have alleged. While I respect those who may not approve of hunting, or in particular Mountain Lion hunting, I also would ask you and them to respect my right, and those afforded everyone who travels to other States, to participate lawfully under those State's laws and wildlife management plans.

My tenure on the Commission has seen me both support and oppose various hunting and fishing issues. When the science I review is sufficient and without question, I have consistently supported fishing closures and listing of endangered or threatened species.

I'm the only commissioner willing to enforce the ban on invasive species into our State. I've also strongly opposed measures that had hidden agendas and were anti-business or anti-sporting community while supporting heavy penalties for those who would break our Fish and Game laws. We face serious challenges at the Commission and I'm proud of my common sense approach vs. carrying the hidden agenda of those who would circumvent our process. You may not like what I do in my private time but I'm very comfortable with what I do with my Public Service. I invest a lot of time, energy

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and money trying to be of service to all Californians. I'm very clear that everyone does not always support every position I take on every issues but I've made a fair amount of new friends on the opposite side of issues I support or oppose who have found my honesty and straight forward approach to be refreshing.

Under your standards all Californians who enjoy gaming in Nevada are somehow ethically challenged as true Californians and should be removed from any official position. My guess is the Legislative chambers might look a little barren should that logic prevail.

I would suggest the Legislature stop cutting the Fish and Game Departments budget every year while increasing the demands upon it. This lack of concern for the resources we manage, the Wardens who are put in harm's way daily and Department and Commission employees who are over-burdened and under-funded is shameful.

In the meantime, I will continue to hunt and fish wherever I please, as I have always done, ethically, licensed and proudly associating with true conservationists who daily fund, protect, enjoy and enhance our bountiful resources while not trying to limit others enjoyment of same.

There is ZERO chance I would consider resigning my position as President of the California Fish and Game Commission and it is my sincere hope that you and your colleagues reassess your request and instead work positively with our Commission and Department for the betterment of the resources we're entrusted to manage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel W. Richards', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel W. Richards
President
California Fish and Game Commission

cc: Governor Edmund "Jerry" G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Natural Resources Agency
John Laird, Secretary
1416 Ninth Street, 13th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95184

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Members of the California State Assembly
Members of the California State Senate

Members of the Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814