



March 11, 2020

The Honorable Kevin Mullin
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3160
Sacramento, CA, 95814



Audubon CALIFORNIA

The Nature Conservancy 

OCEANA



Re: Assembly Bill 2665 (Mullin) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Mullin,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to thank you for authoring AB 2665 which establishes a rebuttable presumption that skin cancer developed by California's wildlife officers and park rangers is associated with excessive exposure to the sun during their employment. Your bill would remove unnecessary barriers for California's wildlife officers and park rangers to access their workers compensation benefits associated with skin cancer.

Our organizations have supported equitable treatment of California's wildlife officers to help ensure the Thin Green Line is as strong and resilient as it can be at protecting California's citizens and natural resources. In order to ensure a legacy of stronger and more robust natural resources enforcement, we should work to treat fairly wildlife officers and park rangers who protect California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend.

Wildlife officers and park rangers have significant, ongoing exposure to the sun as a result of their occupation, yet they are not currently covered by the existing rebuttable presumption in law related to skin cancer for certain occupations. Today, if a wildlife officer or park ranger is diagnosed with skin cancer, they are often put through an extensive workers compensation application process while they are battling cancer. History has shown that the claim frequently denied, necessitating an appeals process that generally results in coverage. During the appeal, those affected officers use their personal leave time and personal health insurance to treat their cancers while they do battle with their worker's compensation insurance carrier, when they should be able to focus entirely on their medical treatment and recovery.

These critical first responders should have the legal protections already afforded to many in other professions with similar daily exposure to the sun who develop skin cancer. We support AB 2665 and look forward to working with you to help get this bill passed.

Sincerely,

Michael Lynes
Director of Public Policy
Audubon California

David Goldenberg
Executive Director
California Sea Urchin Commission

John Carlson, Jr.
President
California Waterfowl Association

Pamela Flick
California Program Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Dan Silver
Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League

Deborah Byrne
Secretary/Treasurer
Friends of Fish and Game

Debra Chase
CEO
Mountain Lion Foundation

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