



18 May 2023

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
Legislative Office Building 632
Albany, NY 12248

Re: OPPOSE Assembly Bill 2917

Dear Chair Dinowitz:

On behalf of Safari Club International (SCI), I write today to oppose Assembly Bill 2917 that would prohibit competitions in which certain animals, deemed to be overly abundant in the local area, are harvested. As an organization dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide, SCI opposes emotionally based efforts, like AB 2917, that attempt to restrict legal, regulated hunting.

These types of events, often called contests, are typically geared toward coyotes and have been the target of anti-hunting groups across the country. Contrary to what these group assert, predator hunting – and predator hunting contests – provide legitimate opportunities for sportsmen and women to participate in managing overpopulated varmint species that can create problems for humans, wildlife, and livestock.

Wildlife hunting competitions are used by state wildlife management agencies to ensure that species remain in ecological balance. SCI strongly believes that management decisions, including legal methods of harvest, should be science-based and left to the professionals at the Department of Environmental Conservation, not driven by politics or emotional arguments.

Wildlife hunting competitions or contests do not present a biological risk to the target species, as hunters are constrained to the same bag limits as those hunters who don't participate in competitions. This fact is contrary to misinformation presented by those opposed to the competitions. Importantly, participants in hunting competitions or contests are subject to the same wildlife laws and regulations, such as bag limits, methods of take, or hunting hours, as those hunters who do not participate in competitions. Because the legal standards are the same, this bill is using emotional arguments in an attempt to cancel a segment of hunting that the proponents of the bill do not like.

SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, is necessary to the long-term health of all wildlife. Hunters have long paid the way for conservation, both game and non-game wildlife, and maximizing opportunity for hunting is also key to long-term funding for all conservation. Because



hunting, including hunting competitions where deemed necessary by local wildlife managers, benefits wildlife conservation, we ask you to oppose Assembly Bill 2917.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sven K. Lindquist". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "S" at the beginning.

Sven Lindquist
President
Safari Club International