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To: ["lauren.aguilar@asm.ca.gov"](mailto:lauren.aguilar@asm.ca.gov)
Subject: California ferret lovers looking to start a conversation
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 1:36:00 PM
Attachments: [lamesaproclamation1250.jpg](#)

Hi Lauren

I called Assemblyman Chen's office today and was told that you are her Legislative Director and that you were unavailable.

We would like to have a discussion with Assemblyman Chen on the need for a ferret legalization bill.

We focus on a legislator each week to try to start this discussion and have not had much success, which is a tremendous pity for freedom and ferret lovers in California.

Now, about ferrets:

The ferret issue has been around for ... decades! But things are evolving!

We have noticed a change that in the past few years more people are familiar with ferrets. We used to get questions "what is that?" when a ferret was out.

Most people seem to know someone who has a ferret.

And so, when the Fish and Game Commission rejected our request that they remove ferrets from the prohibited species list, and after they refused we asked them to at least issue permits for them as they did prior to 1985 – they gave us this response:

Short Description	Staff Recommendations
Requests FGC issue permits for ferrets under certain circumstances.	Deny: FGC has previously indicated that it will not authorize wild animals to be possessed as pets.

And when the staff called our pets "wild animals" non-ferret people at that Fish and Game meeting broke out in laughter. At that point I knew we had won.

Eric Sklar, the President of the Fish and Game Commission called me two days after that meeting to say it was more complicated.

He said they all know ferrets aren't wild, that he doesn't care if people have them or not and he doesn't like the current don't ask – don't tell policy.

And they would require a full blown EIR to proceed. (which we have offered to do) He told us to expect to pay \$200,000 up front, then at the end to expect the final bill to be closer to \$600,000. And after it was all done to expect to end up in court and ferrets still illegal.

He told us to get a legislator. Legislation isn't subject to CEQA.

Easier said than done. We've been looking for a legislator since Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the last ferret bill in 2004 (SB87) calling for an EIR first.

I asked Mr. Sklar if he would put it in writing. The Fish and Game Commission won't move on ferrets and we should have legislation. He said to pull his comments off the video of the meeting.

He had successfully weaseled out of a responsibility.

I am happy to say our numbers are growing. We now have an email list just shy of 10,000 and an excellent social media following.

We were able to persuade the entire city council of my hometown, La Mesa to support our efforts

And we are going to be working on making more cities up and down California ferret friendly.

But we really need a legislator.

I've been doing this for a while. I know the current mood is that this issue has been around so long that legislators and their staff are tired of it and us. We are either politely excused or rudely ignored. There is no real opposition to ferret legalization, the bill would probably pass but it would distract from the issues that legislators prefer to work on; global warming, homelessness, education, veterans, kind of in that order.

We need a legislator with courage. Someone who is not afraid to represent us ferret dorks and stand up what is right.

I will publish a lead article in our Sunday newsletter asking our people to show our grassroots strength to reach out to Assemblyman Chen. I always prefer to do it in the least intrusive way. If I don't hear back I'll ask people to email you at this email address and we'll use a consistent subject line so as to not clog up in your inbox.

Thank you,

Pat Wright

LegalizeFerrets.org

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