



LegalizeFerrets.org

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Shannon Douglass
President
California Farm Bureau
2600 River Plaza Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95833

March 5, 2025

Subject: A Science-Based Approach – Seeking the Farm Bureau’s Public Support for Ferret Legalization

Dear Ms. Douglass,

Enclosed, please find a copy of the petition for regulatory change that we submitted to the California Fish and Game Commission, along with a one-page summary for ease of review.

I am writing to respectfully request the California Farm Bureau’s public support for this petition to update the classification of domestic ferrets in California.

For years, outdated regulations have wrongly classified domestic ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*) as wild animals, despite overwhelming scientific evidence to the contrary. As the leading voice for California’s farmers and ranchers, the Farm Bureau has long supported sound, science-based policies. Your support in advocating for fair and fact-driven regulation would be invaluable.

Why Ferret Legalization Matters to Agriculture

We recognize that agricultural concerns have been cited in past opposition to ferret legalization. However, after decades of review, it is now clear that:

- ✓ Ferrets Pose No Agricultural Risk
 - No state where ferrets are legal has reported damage to crops, livestock, or wildlife.
 - Environmental studies confirm that ferrets lack the survival instincts necessary to establish feral populations.
- ✓ Ferrets Are Recognized as Domestic by Leading Institutions
 - The USDA, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and 48 other states recognize ferrets as fully domestic pets, just like dogs and cats.

- Even California’s own peer-reviewed studies provide no scientific basis for maintaining the ban.
- ✓ Major Agricultural States Allow Ferrets Without Issue
 - States with significant farming economies—including Texas, Florida, and the Midwest—permit ferret ownership without any negative impact on agriculture.

An Opportunity for Leadership

The California Farm Bureau has long championed fair and reasonable regulations that balance agricultural interests, science, and individual rights. Supporting ferret legalization aligns with these values by:

- Advocating for evidence-based policymaking rather than outdated restrictions.
- Reducing unnecessary government overreach that affects responsible pet owners.
- Recognizing that many farmers and ranchers are also pet owners who deserve fair laws.

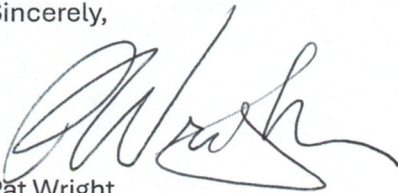
Our Request: Public Support from the Farm Bureau

Ferret legalization has often been mischaracterized as a threat to agriculture—an assertion unsupported by facts. **Your public support would help dispel this misconception and ensure that policymaking is guided by science, not outdated fears.**

We respectfully ask for the Farm Bureau’s public endorsement of our petition or, at the very least, a statement affirming that domestic ferrets do not pose an agricultural risk. Your leadership on this issue would make a significant impact in ensuring fair and science-backed regulations for all Californians.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further at your convenience. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Pat Wright
LegalizeFerrets.org