Honourable Katrine Conroy

Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

PO Box 9049 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Conroy,

Re: Supporting the Managed Hunt

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen, constituent and resident hunter. I am deeply troubled by the recent campaign put forward to ban licensed cougar, lynx and bobcat hunting, which defies science-based wildlife management strategies.

British Columbia’s professional wildlife biologists are charged with the responsibility of managing wildlife populations in a scientific, sustainable and socially acceptable manner. Hunting, when based on biological information and properly regulated, can be used effectively to help meet wildlife management objectives.

Hunters and trappers play a vital role in the management process by ensuring they are supporting science, practicing a conservation ethic and putting back into our fish and wildlife resources via volunteerism and direct dollars.

Hunting in British Columbia is strictly regulated, including the hunting of cougar, lynx and bobcat. In addition, hunting licenses, permits and conservation surcharges provide a major source of funding for habitat restoration and enhancement, and research and management programs for all wildlife, including game and non-game species.

I am worried that ignoring the science and processes behind the management of our precious wildlife threatens a way of life for many British Columbians. Being able to hunt and fish with my family allows me to share my proud outdoor heritage with them and teach them an appreciation and broader understanding of our natural world.

We are all concerned about the sustainability of our fish and wildlife resources. Respecting the principals of harvest management plans rooted in science and developed by wildlife biologists, is the long-term strategy which ensures the viability of fish and wildlife. We need to get serious about managing landscapes to maintain healthy wildlife populations based on science, not by public pressure fueled by emotion. Hunting, when responsibly regulated following biological principles, is an appropriate means of managing wildlife populations, including predators.

I support the hunting and trapping regulations as set out in the Hunting and Trapping Regulation Synopsis and the hunting of cougars, lynx and bobcats.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I look forward to your response and support for my concerns.

Respectfully,