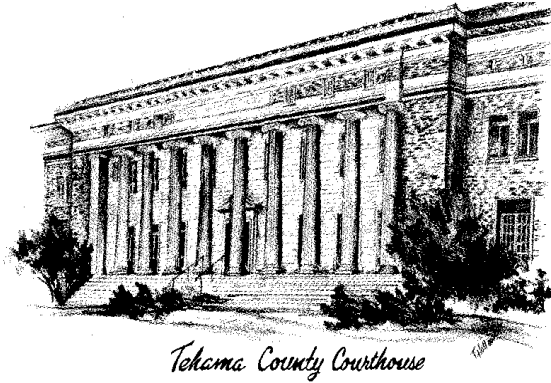


*Board of Supervisors*  
**COUNTY OF TEHAMA**

District 1 – Rob Burroughs  
District 2 – Tom Walker  
District 3 – Steve Zane  
District 4 – Matt Hansen  
District 5 – Greg Jones



Gabriel Hydrick  
Chief Administrator

June 30, 2026

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water  
1021 O Street, Room 2130  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 323-2232

**SUBJECT: OPPOSE SB 1305 (Wildlife: Bears) – AS AMENDED**

Dear Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Tehama County Board of Supervisors, we respectfully express our opposition to Senate Bill 1305, which would require the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a feasibility and management roadmap for the reintroduction of Grizzly bears into California. While we acknowledge the historical significance of the California Grizzly bear, we have serious concerns regarding the impacts such a proposal could have on rural communities, agricultural operations, public safety, and the effective use of limited state resources.

**Public Safety Concerns**

Tehama County encompasses vast rural landscapes, public lands, and recreational areas that are heavily utilized by residents, visitors, ranchers, farmers, and outdoor enthusiasts. The introduction of a large apex predator into California's environment presents significant public safety concerns for communities that already coexist with existing wildlife populations. Rural residents, agricultural workers, and recreationists should not be subjected to additional risks associated with a species that has been absent from California for more than a century.

**Impacts on Agriculture and Livestock Operations**

Agriculture is a cornerstone of Tehama County's economy. According to the County's most recent Crop and Livestock Report, beef cattle is the third-highest valued agricultural commodity in Tehama County, with production value increasing by 18 percent in 2024. The county's agricultural industry generated more than \$407 million in gross production value during the year, underscoring the importance of livestock and ranching operations to our local economy.

Our ranchers and livestock producers already face substantial challenges, including drought, wildfire, rising operational costs, predation from existing wildlife species, and increasing regulatory burdens. The potential reintroduction of Grizzly bears would create additional concerns regarding livestock depredation, property damage, and increased management costs. The bill provides no assurances regarding adequate long-term funding, liability protections, or compensation mechanisms for affected agricultural producers. Given the significant economic contribution of cattle ranching to Tehama County, any increase in livestock losses or operational costs could have meaningful impacts on local producers and the rural communities that depend upon them.

### **Existing Wildlife and Resource Management Priorities**

California currently faces significant wildlife management challenges, including the management of existing bear populations, mountain lions, invasive species, habitat conservation, and wildfire recovery efforts. State resources would be better directed toward addressing these pressing concerns rather than pursuing a costly and speculative roadmap for reintroducing a species that no longer exists in California's modern landscape.

### **Fiscal and Implementation Concerns**

Developing a feasibility study and management roadmap would require substantial expenditures of taxpayer resources with no guarantee of successful implementation or public support. At a time when state and local governments face competing priorities, including public safety, infrastructure needs, wildfire resilience, and natural resource management, dedicating resources to the potential reintroduction of Grizzly bears is not an appropriate use of limited funding.

For these reasons, the Tehama County Board of Supervisors respectfully urges your committee to vote NO on SB 1305.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Tom Walker  
Chair, Tehama County Board of Supervisors