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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to encourage you to introduce legislation that will ban the importation and sale of the American bull frog (*Lithobates* former [*rana*] *catasbeianus*) into the state of California. The reasons for this are well established as not only are the species of frog in question a significant predator but has been strongly implicated in the spread of amphibian diseases, particularly Chytridiomycosis.

The greatest risk for the Californian native frogs, of which many have been disappearing, will be the release of a predator and disease vector such as this into the wild. It may be argued that there will be strict controls over the ownership and distribution of these frogs. However history and personal experience of many years talking to the public on such issues tells me that these cannot be enforced and nor are they upheld. Many American bull frogs have been introduced around the world into the wild through what is known as personal initiatives, most of the time ordinary people who have no intention of breaking the law but feel they are "doing the right thing".

There is really no reason to have this species in California, the use of these frogs for consumption and experimentation is no longer considered ethical and the use of them as pets can easily be replaced by local native Californian species. It is of concern that the American bull frog is already feral in many of the south eastern states of North America and the illegal flow from there cannot be policed. However removing them as a species from public ownership within the state of California is the best action you can do in creating public awareness. That certain species, even frogs can do irreversible damage if they become feral. If you wish to preserve the Californian wilderness and what is left of the states precious amphibian fauna then there needs to be geographical and legislative barriers that prevent the introduction of potential pest species such as this.

Yours sincerely

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(BVSc, MACVS, PhD Candidate University of Queensland and Vice President of the Queensland frog Society.)