



**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **Monning Announces Governor's Signature to Help Threatened Sea Otters**

(SACRAMENTO, CA) – Assemblymember Bill Monning (D-Carmel) announced today that Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill (AB) 971 into law. AB 971 keeps the California Sea Otter Fund, a voluntary tax check-off program, in place for another five years. Money collected from the program supports research and protection efforts for sea otters.

“The signing of AB 971 allows Californians to continue to voluntarily contribute money to the California Otter Fund and help save this iconic creature,” stated Assemblymember Monning. “Given recent information that the sea otter population remains threatened, it is important that the tax check-off option be reauthorized and that funds continue to be donated to help support sea otter research.”

The California Sea Otter Fund supports researchers in their efforts to study and protect the threatened population of sea otters in California. Today, fewer than 3,000 sea otters exist along the state's coastline—one-fifth of the historic population. The Fund is a primary source of funding for sea otter field research.

AB 971 is co-sponsored by the Defenders of Wildlife and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. For more information on the check-off visit <http://www.defenders.org/seaotter/taxday>.

Assemblymember Monning was first elected to represent the 27th Assembly District in 2008 and re-elected in 2010. The 27th Assembly District includes portions of Monterey, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties. Prior to his election to the Assembly, Assemblymember Monning was a Professor at the Monterey College of Law and a Professor of International Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

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