



March 3, 2017

The Honorable James Gallagher
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJ: AB 986 (Hunting and Sport fishing licenses: sport fishing license duration: reduction in license fees for veterans.)
POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gallagher:

The California Sportfishing League (CSL) is pleased to support AB 986.

CSL represents recreational anglers across California on issues important to protecting fishing access, fisheries management, hatchery fish production and conservation of natural resources important to fisheries.

The CSL is in strong support of a switch to an annual license of 12-months from the date of issue instead of the current calendar-year expiration. This would encourage more sport anglers by establishing a twelve-consecutive-month license. Having a 12-month fishing license is imperative to the success of this program. Several states have already transitioned to a 12-month fishing program with considerable success. Fishing license sales increased and so did state revenue, which in turn created more jobs for the communities and the state.

The California Sportfishing League (CSL) is pleased to support more fishing opportunities and access for California veterans by providing license discounts for fishing and hunting in our state. This legislation is necessary when considering the rising costs facing sport fishers and hunters and the decline in the sale of licenses. While our nation can never repay the debt owed to military veterans, California can certainly ease their transition from combat to peace by helping with their rehabilitation costs and providing wholesome recreation for them and their families.

For these reasons, CSL supports AB 986.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marko Mlikotin", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marko Mlikotin
Executive Director

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