



**SAN
FRANCISCO
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

March 13, 2017

The Honorable James Gallagher
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2158
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Support AB 986 (Gallagher), 12-Month Fishing License

Dear Assemblymember Gallagher,

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing over 2,500 businesses with over 200,000 employees across the Bay Area, supports your bill, AB 968, reforming the costly and outdated fishing license program that has contributed to a tremendous decline in the state's recreational fishing participation.

Since 1980, the number of annual licenses has dropped 55%, and California ranks last in the nation for the percentage of the population that fishes recreationally. This legislation can help reverse that trend. It establishes an annual fishing license that is valid for a full 12 months from the date of purchase, provides a discount for veterans, establishes a junior fishing license for 16 and 17 year-olds, and exempts charitable organizations from possession limits (the latter would replicate the law signed by Governor Brown with the same exemption for non-profits and hunted game).

California's 2.7 million anglers generate \$4.6 billion in economic activity annually, supporting local tourism and jobs. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce supports AB 986 and your efforts to streamline the licensing process and open it up to more people to encourage growth in recreational fishing across the state.

Sincerely,

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy

cc: Senator Scott Wiener; Assemblymember Phil Ting; Assemblymember David Chiu