



March 17, 2017

SUPPORT AB 478 (Waldron) Junior Fishing License

The Honorable Marie Waldron
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Waldron,

The California Association for Recreational Fishing (CARF) is a broad-based coalition of freshwater recreational anglers, lake and marina operators, fish farmers and businesses dependent on a strong and vibrant outdoor tourism industry.

California's annual license sales have dropped more than 55% since 1980 and its statewide fishing participation rate of 6% ranks dead last in the nation, despite the fact that the state has one of the longest coastlines, and thousands of rivers and lakes.

California needs to enact wholesale reform of its fishing license program in order to encourage more residents to participate in a great California pastime. This can be achieved by making recreational fishing more affordable to California youth. Studies show that over 70% of anglers learned to fish as a child, and like many outdoor activities, fishing becomes a lifelong passion.

Today, fishing is free for youth under 16 years of age, and we support AB 478 for the reason that it will expand free fishing to all youth under the age of 18.

Thank you for introducing legislation that will grow the next generation of California anglers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Elliott".

Craig Elliott
President

