



March 17, 2017

**SUPPORT AB 986 (Gallagher) 12-Month Fishing License/Veterans Discount**

The Honorable James Gallagher  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Gallagher,

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 following the lead of other states who have successfully established a 12-month license as a means to increase fishing participation rates, and increase outdoor tourism and jobs.

Additionally, California veterans are well deserving of discounted fishing licenses.

For these reasons, CARF is pleased to support efforts to reform California's costly and antiquated fishing license program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Elliott", is written over a light gray background.

Craig Elliott  
President

