



March 29, 2018

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95630

SUBJ: OPPOSE AB 2787 (Quirk): Lead fishing weights and sinkers

Dear Assemblymember Muratsuchi,

United Pier and Shore Anglers of California (UPSAC) is a statewide organization that champions pier and shore fishing. Our programs promote ethical angling and have introduced thousands of youth to fishing via various classes and kids fishing derbies.

There are over 120 public piers in California with 35 of these located in Southern California. Los Angeles County, which has the highest number of licensed anglers in the state, includes 13 public piers of which several are located in your district.

Pier fishing is often the domain of less affluent anglers, many who are migrant and poor, and many times the piers offer the only affordable access these anglers have to the ocean. The piers are also one of the few places full families can fish at a modest cost since licenses are not required. In addition, pier fishing is frequently a child's first introduction to fishing.

Our organization is concerned that Assembly 2787 will needlessly increase the cost of fishing and will introduce further barriers to anglers from underserved communities. Tackle used on piers often calls for lighter sinkers than used on boats and while lead-free alternatives exist, they are considerably more expensive.

It is clear that this bill will directly affect costs for pier anglers and it is also clear that any cost increase to this community will have predictable results: a decrease in fishing activity. This will add to California's already declining fishing participation rate.

As fishing license sales decline, there will be less revenue for state conservation and habitat programs that protect wildlife and coastal waters. As fishing participation declines, so will outdoor tourism and jobs in many coastal communities that depend

on recreational fishing for economic activity, an activity that generates \$4.6 billion a year in California.

Please consider the gravity of your decision carefully and call for a California specific analysis that could justify the merits of this legislation.

Respectively,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and 'J'.

Kenneth Jones
President, United Pier and Shore Anglers of California

CC: Members of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic
Materials