



April 18, 2018

Senator Tom Berryhill  
State Capitol, Room 3067  
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 518 (Berryhill) Sport fishing licenses: duration  
POSITION: SPONSOR

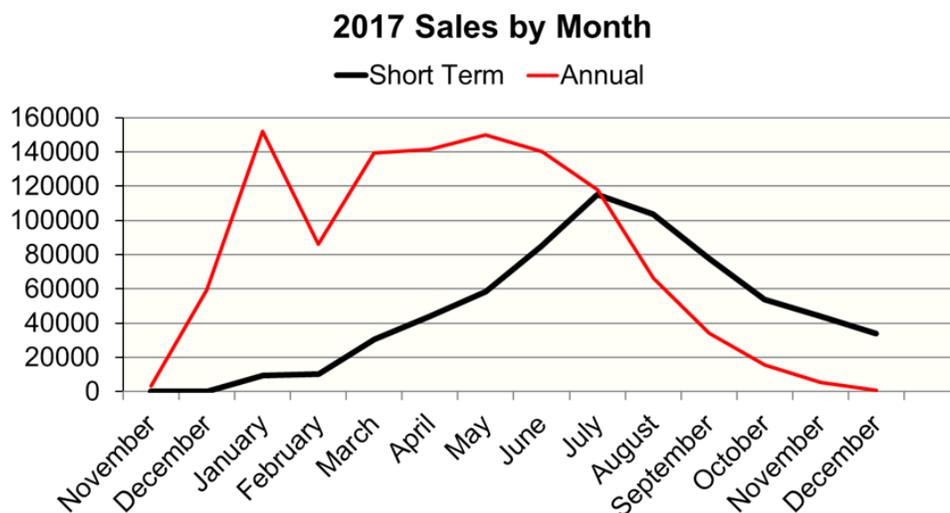
Dear Senator Berryhill:

The California Sportfishing League (CSL) is pleased to support SB 518. The 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.

Although California's 2.6 million anglers ranks as one of the top markets for outdoor consumer products in the country, CSL is concerned with an unprecedented decline in California's fishing participation rate, as well as its impact on an industry that contributes over \$4.6 billion annually to California's economy and supports more than 35,000 jobs.

In 1980, California sold over 2.2 million annual fishing licenses at a cost of just \$5. Today, the base price for an annual fishing license has skyrocketed to \$48.34, while the number of annual licenses sold has dropped a staggering 55%. Over the past 8 years, annual license sales have declined 16%. This is an alarming trend that is evident to anglers, businesses and the California communities dependent on recreational fishing for tourism, jobs and tax revenue.

What's more, as indicated by California Department of Fish and Wildlife annual vs. short term license sales data, there are few incentives for anglers to purchase a costly calendar based license late in the year, and during the Spring through Fall months when most anglers prefer to fish.



Similar to actions taken by other states, SB 518 seeks to reform California's antiquated fishing license system by abandoning a calendar year license for one that is valid for a full 12 months from the date of purchase. Increasing the value of California's annual fishing license should slow declining participation rates, and increase sales and revenue for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's fishery and conservation programs

With this in mind, the CSL is pleased to support SB 518. This legislation serves as a first step to providing California a comprehensive solution to addressing an unacceptable decline to sportfishing.

Sincerely,

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

Marko Mlikotin  
Executive Director