

May 8, 2017

The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher
Chairwoman
California Assembly Appropriations Committee
California State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94349-0080

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

Dear Chairwoman Fletcher:

I am writing on behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) in support of AB 986, Hunting and Sportfishing Licenses. NMMA represents 1,500 manufacturers of recreational boats, engines, trailers and accessory equipment, including 124 manufacturers in California.

We strongly support AB 986, changing the current fishing license system to a license that is valid for a full 12-months from the date of purchase. We believe it is reasonable that an angler paying an annual fee be able to have the benefit of fishing for 12 months. Maryland recently adopted this model, and it is in place in 11 states. Mexico, which draws anglers from all over the world through San Diego's port to fish its waters, also has a 12-month license.

California anglers deserve a license that expires 12 months after its purchase date. They seek value and savings when choosing their outdoor activities. Not only are Californian fishing licenses the most expensive in the United States, NMMA supports AB 986 because we believe it would help slow or reverse the steady decline in fishing participation rates and license sales the state has experienced for decades.

For these reasons, I ask that you support AB 986. Please contact me at ddickerson@nmma.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



David Dickerson
Vice President State Government Relations

Executive Committee

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Syntec Industries

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NMMA