

May 8, 2017

The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher
Chairwoman
California Assembly Appropriations Committee
California State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080

SUPPORT AB 478 (Waldron) Junior Fishing License Legislation

Dear Chairwoman Fletcher:

I am writing on behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) in support of AB 478, Sportfishing Licenses, Age Requirement.

NMMA represents 1,500 manufacturers of recreational boats, engines, trailers and accessory equipment, including 124 manufacturers in California. We strongly support AB 478, changing the current fishing license system to require only those anglers 18 years and older to purchase a fishing license. California has experienced a decades-long decline in fishing participation rates and license sales, threatening recreational fishing's economic benefit to the state, and communities dependent on outdoor tourism for jobs and tax revenue.

Reducing the cost to fish in an important way to increase the number of people who fish, particularly in situations where adults are introducing young people to the sport. Studies conducted by Keep America Fishing have found that young people exposed to fishing are far more likely to fish throughout their lives than people who are introduced to it later in life.

I encourage you and your committee to support AB 478, as well as AB 986 (Gallagher), which also reduces costly barriers to participation by establishing a fishing license that is valid a full 12-months from the date of purchase.

California anglers are no different than other consumers; they respond to lower prices and value when spending their time and money in the great outdoors. Thank you for your attention to my request, and 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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Member at Large
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Regulator Marine
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Thomas J. Dammrich
NMMA