



April 2, 2018

Assembly Member Bill Quirk, Chair
Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2787 – Lead Fishing Weights and Sinkers
Position: Oppose

Dear Assembly Member Quirk and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation to express our concerns with Assembly Bill 2787, which would ban the sale and manufacture of lead fishing weights and sinkers smaller than 50 grams.

Since 1989 the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation has maintained a singleness of purpose that has guided the organization to become the most respected and trusted sportsmen's organization in the political arena. CSF's mission is to work with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling and the shooting sports.

North America's approach to wildlife management is unique to the world, as wildlife - primarily in the United States and Canada - are managed as public trust resources for the benefit of all citizens. This management ethic, known as the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, has become the paragon for wildlife management, and has resulted in the rebound of numerous species once in danger of extinction. Among the primary tenants of the Model is the use of the best available science to guide wildlife management decisions. AB 2787 is not in keeping with that principle. To date, there have been no scientific, peer-reviewed studies that indicate the use of lead weights and sinkers has an adverse population-level impact on California's wildlife.

Additionally, we believe that AB 2787 will hinder the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) efforts to recruit, reactivate, and retain anglers in the Golden State. As there are currently no comparable materials that allow for the same performance and at a similar price point of lead weights and sinkers, AB 2787 would make recreational fishing more difficult and expensive for many Californians. Additional barriers to participation in recreational fishing are concerning because the number of anglers in California has fallen dramatically over the last three decades. In 1986, when California had just 27 million residents, the state sold 1.7 million resident fishing licenses. In 2017, despite an additional 12 million residents, CDFW sold just over one million licenses – a decline of almost 40%.

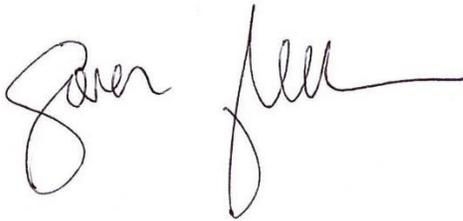
The decline in the number of Californians who fish poses an ever-increasing threat to fisheries and aquatic resource conservation and management. Through the American System of Conservation Funding, sales of fishing licenses, combined with excise taxes on fishing equipment, electric trolling motors and

motorboat fuel, directly fund CDFW's conservation efforts across the state. In 2017 alone, California's anglers contributed over \$77 million to conservation in California through this System. Annually, angler expenditures generate over \$2.4 billion for the state economy and support over 35,000 jobs. By making recreational fishing prohibitively expensive, AB 2787 will deprive CDFW of vital funding for wildlife management and conservation.

Furthermore, we believe the concerns that the use of lead weights and sinkers during a day of fishing result in a human health risk are overestimated and unfounded. A report produced by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (Proposition 65 Interpretive Guideline No. 2008- 001, Guideline for Hand-to-Mouth Transfer of Lead through Exposure to Fishing Tackle Products), has been cited as justification for AB 2787. It is our view that this report reaches erroneous conclusions by relying on inaccurate assumptions and flawed methodology and does not merit serious consideration in the context of AB 2787.

California's recreational anglers are vital to the continued conservation of the state's natural resources. This bill would create a significant barrier to participation in recreational fishing and would do so for reasons that have no scientific basis. For this reason and the reasons articulated above, we respectfully urge that you oppose AB 2787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Soren Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Soren Nelson
Pacific Southwest States Coordinator
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
snelson@congressionalsportsmen.org
916-633-3664