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March 17, 2018

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The Honorable Bill Quirk, Chair and Members
California State Assembly
Environmental Toxic and Substances Committee
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oppose Assembly Bill 2787: Lead Fishing Weight Ban

Dear Mr. Quirk and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the aquaculture industry and members of the California Aquaculture Association, we respectfully oppose Assembly Bill 2787 related to lead fishing weights. The California Aquaculture Association promotes commercial production of plants and animals in aquatic systems to satisfy the needs of consumers for wholesome products produced through sustainable means thus conserving California's precious land and water resources.

There is no evidence that lead fishing weights threaten wildlife populations in California, specifically. Isolated incidences in California do not suggest a significant risk, or the justification for a statewide ban. The various and diverse ecosystems present in California make for our bounty and beauty, but also make it difficult for the rational implementation of a one size fits all ban of this nature.

Passing of this legislation could further harm fishing participation rates for recreational and professional purposes in a state that is already facing chances thus potentially driving up the cost of fishing tackle two-three times, or more. Annual fishing license sales have declined 55% since 1980. As fishing license sales decline, there will be less revenue for state conservation and habitat programs that protect wildlife and keep our waters clean.

Since California is one of the country's largest consumer markets for fishing tackle and outdoor equipment, this bill could put many American tackle manufacturers and tackle shops in an unsustainable financial position. Further harm could also be done to outdoor tourism and jobs dependent on recreational fishing for economic activity that generates \$4.6 billion a year in California.

Please consider rescinding this statewide ban and delay action until further research has been completed.

Respectfully,

Michael Lee, Executive Director

CC: Phillip Chen, Dr. Joaquin Arambula, William Brough, Cristina Garcia, Chris Holden, Al Muratsuchi