



April 17, 2018

TO: Members, Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials

FROM: Adam J. Regele, Policy Advocate *AJR*

**SUBJECT: AB 2787 (QUIRK) LEAD FISHING WEIGHTS AND SINKERS  
HEARING SCHEDULED – APRIL 24, 2018  
OPPOSE – AS AMENDED APRIL 3, 2018**

The California Chamber of Commerce respectfully **OPPOSES AB 2787 (Quirk)**, which will ban the manufacture, sale, and purchase of a fishing weight or sinker in California that has a cross section greater than or equal to two centimeters in length, is under 50 grams in mass, and contains more than 0.1 percent lead by weight. **AB 2787** reneges on the bipartisan agreement established under the Green Chemistry Initiative (GCI) to provide the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) with regulatory authority to craft science-based regulations for all potentially hazardous substances in consumer products. This bill will unnecessarily ban affordable and safe fishing tackle used by 1.6 million anglers, risk more than 2,500 jobs in California, result in an estimated \$173 million in lost expenditures related to recreational fishing, and eliminate nearly \$3.5 million in conservation funding annually generated by recreational fishing.

In 2008, California lawmakers passed two bipartisan measures that sought to create a new, science-based framework for regulating chemicals in consumer products. The Safer Consumer Products Initiative, authorized by AB 1879 (Feuer; D-Los Angeles; Chapter 559) and SB 509 (Simitian; D-Palo Alto; Chapter 560), was the product of a collaborative effort by legislators, the Schwarzenegger administration, and stakeholders to give DTSC the authority to regulate potentially hazardous substances in consumer products. The California Chamber of Commerce supported the goal of GCI to significantly reduce adverse impact to human health and the environment. That support was based on assurances that the subsequent regulatory framework would be anchored in strong science-based hazard and exposure evaluations and priority setting; that innovation would thrive; and trade secrets would be adequately protected. Although CalChamber remains committed to the goals of the enacting legislation, piecemeal legislation like **AB 2787** threaten to undermine the program and the good faith established between the regulated community and lawmakers.

Under the Safer Consumer Products Program, DTSC listed lead fishing tackle in its 2015-2017 three-year work plan (Priority Product Work Plan) as one of several product categories within the scope of potential future regulation. After much consideration, DTSC made a determination *not* to regulate lead-based fish tackle and removed it from its Draft 2018-20 Priority Product Work Plan, which it plans to finalize later this month. Additionally, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has repeatedly turned down proposals banning lead, citing that such plans are scientifically unjustified. The entire collaborative and bipartisan effort to create the Safer Consumer Products Program is rendered essentially meaningless if the very agency responsible for determining what product-chemical combinations should be regulated is disregarded in favor of piecemeal legislation.

This proposed ban of fishing and angling gear will have significant negative impacts on California's tourism industry. Sportfishing is extraordinarily popular in California, luring many tourists and anglers to California from all over the world. In fact, the sportfishing industry accounts for approximately 19 percent of California's \$90 billion annual tourism revenues. This statistic alone demonstrates that fishing and outdoor recreation is critical

to our state's economy. Moreover, the \$173 million in recreational fishing expenditures supports over 2,500 jobs, \$24.2 million in state and local tax revenue, and nearly \$3.5 million in conservation funding annually. The Safer Consumer Products Program is working. Let the agency with the scientific expertise analyze and continue to make determinations that all parties must live by, as was agreed in 2008 when all stakeholders agreed to give DTSC this authority.

For these reasons, CalChamber must **OPPOSE AB 2787 (Quirk)**.

cc: The Honorable Bill Quirk  
Catalina Hayes-Bautista, Office of the Governor  
Josh Tooker, Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials  
John Kennedy, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
District Office, Members, Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials

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