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March 13, 2017

The Honorable Marie Waldron
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4130
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 478 (Waldron) – Support

Dear Assembly Member Waldron:

On behalf of our clients, the California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains, the California Yacht Brokers Association, the Marina Recreation Association, the National Marine Manufacturers Association, and the Worldwide Boaters Safety Group, we are pleased to offer our support for your bill, AB 478. This bill would raise the age from 16 to 18 for anglers to fish for free.

The organizations listed above represent the breadth of California's boating industry. The membership of these organizations includes private marina owners and operators, public agency marina managers, marine manufacturers, boat dealers, boating publications, yacht brokers, boat repair facilities, marine insurance and financing firms, and more than 28,000 individual boaters.

The decline in fishing license sales will continue if California families cannot afford to fish. It is imperative that the State do everything in its power to help promote fishing amongst its youth, in order to preserve the heritage of the California angler. AB 478 will allow anglers to fish for free until the age of 18.

California has experienced a stark decline in fishing license sales, particularly in the past few years with 2014 sales dropping to the lowest level in history. The price of California's annual resident fishing license is the second highest in the Country. In their 2016 study, California Sportfishing League reports that "when compared to all states offering a calendar year license, California's license costs 84% above the national average price." This figure does not include the extra fees many lakes charge fishermen and women for daily permits, which can reach as high as \$9 - \$10 per person.

It is apparent that fishing's future is dependent on more young people being introduced to fishing (CSL, 2016). The best way to accomplish this is to make fishing affordable for families. AB 478 will raise the age requirement for fishing licenses from 16 to 18 years old, allowing easier access to this important part of our State's heritage.

For this reason, we are pleased to offer our support for AB 478.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Krauss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end. Below the signature, the name "William Krauss" is printed in a standard black font.

cc: Members, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee