



March 16, 2017

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
Chairman
Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Room 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 986 (Gallagher) 12-Month Fishing License/Veterans Discount
Position: Support

Dear Assemblyman Garcia:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) is pleased to support AB 986 by Assemblyman Gallagher. The bill is intended to increase fishing participation rates and license sales. AB 986 will do so by creating a new annual fishing license that is valid a full 12 months from the date of purchase and by discounting fishing licenses for California Veterans.

When California's annual fishing license expires December 31st of every year, there are few incentives for California anglers to purchase today's annual fishing license, which many also consider too costly. While AB 986 will not reduce the cost of annual licenses for most anglers, it will provide greater value by ensuring its validity a full 12 months.

The measure also discounts fishing licenses for American veterans by 25 percent, and by 50 percent for veterans that have a 50 percent or greater service-connected disability.

While California Waterfowl Association is an organization that is primarily concerned with waterfowl and wetlands conservation and hunting heritage, we support this fishing related bill because many of our members fish and because improvements to programs that increase revenues from fishing and hunting licenses benefit natural resources by adding additional revenues to the Fish and Game Preservation Fund. The Fund is a primary source of funding for conservation of both fish and wildlife.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Volberg
Director of Water Law & Policy
California Waterfowl Association

Cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife