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March 13, 2017

The Honorable James Gallagher
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2158
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 986 (Gallagher) – Support

Dear Assembly Member Gallagher:

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 986.

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.

Current law only offers discounts on fishing and hunting licenses to disabled or recovering veterans. This bill would expand this discount to all honorably discharged veterans, thereby expanding access to California's outdoor opportunities and demonstrate California's appreciation of their service. Additionally, under current law, an annual sport fishing license is valid from date of purchase until December 31st. This bill would instead require licenses be issued for the period of 12 consecutive months from date of purchase.

Fishing contributes \$4.9 billion in economic activity for the state of California, according to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. California offers an "annual" sport fishing license. However, this license expires on December 31 of every year regardless of when purchased. This arrangement creates a continually growing disincentive to purchase a license as the year progresses. AB 986 eliminates this disincentive and would unquestionably stimulate the sale of more licenses.

We believe it is only right to provide a discount to our deserving veterans and the change to a 12-month license only makes sense from a fiscal perspective.

For these reasons, we are pleased to offer our support for AB 986.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'William Krauss', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William Krauss

cc: Member, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife