



March 12, 2018

Environmental Toxic and Substances Committee
Assembly Member Bill Quirk, Chair
and Members of the Committee
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oppose Assembly Bill 2787: Lead Fishing Weight Ban

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The California Association for Recreational Fishing (CARF) is a grass-roots organization of fresh water recreational fishermen and businesses that support a \$4.6 billion industry in California, creating jobs and recreational opportunities for millions of Californians.

CARF is dedicated to protecting fresh water fishing, as well as the private fish hatcheries and lake operators that stock and manage thousands of California lakes and ponds; all of which are threatened by regulations that make fishing too costly for many California families

As lake operators and fish hatcheries go out of business, access to fresh water fishing will decline and jobs will be lost. 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 out of business.

While lead bans exist in some Northeastern states or other countries, wildlife found in other states may not be common here. Moreover, if they exist here, they could be limited to a small geographical area that would not justify a "statewide" ban. 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.

Annual fishing license sales have declined 55% since 1980. Passing this legislation will further harm fishing participation rates by driving up the cost of fishing tackle two-three times, or more. As fishing license sales decline, there will be less revenue for state conservation and habitat programs that protect wildlife and keep our waters clean. This will also harm outdoor tourism and jobs dependent on recreational fishing for economic activity that generates \$4.6 billion a year in California.

I strongly urge you to consider the consequences of this proposed legislation and delay action until further research has been completed.

Respectively,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Elliot", written in a cursive style.

Craig Elliot
President

CC: Members of the Committee

PO Box 4918, Chico, CA 95927