



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

March 30, 2017

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

**RE: Assembly Bill 478 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Waldron:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for your Assembly Bill 478 relating to the sport fishing age requirement. RCRC is an association of thirty-five rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

California rural counties are home to many of the premier fishing areas on the West Coast. Fishing license sales have declined over 55 percent over the last few decades while California's population has increased by almost 60 percent. Unfortunately, there is no indication that this downward trajectory of license sales will change in the near term. This trend could negatively impact the tourism industry of communities that rely on outdoor recreational activities as a critical component of their economy.

Current law requires every person 16 years of age or older to obtain a sport fishing license. AB 478 provides a modest adjustment to this age requirement by allowing youths under 18 years of age to fish without needing to obtain a fishing license. It is hoped that this can be a modest change to help establish the next generation of anglers as well as benefiting the tourism industry of many rural communities.

RCRC appreciates your legislative efforts on this issue, and we look forward to its successful passage.

Sincerely,

MARY-ANN WARMERDAM  
Senior Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Member, California State Assembly  
Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Jennifer Galehouse, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Jared Yoshiki, Assembly Republican Caucus

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