



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

March 28, 2017

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

RE: Assembly Bill 986 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gallagher:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we are pleased to express our support for your Assembly Bill 986, which revises the duration of sport fishing licenses and assists our veterans. 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 also home to many of the premier fishing areas on the West Coast. Unfortunately, fishing license sales have declined over 55 percent over the last few decades while California's population has increased by almost 60 percent. The sale of these licenses could continue their downward trajectory in the coming years which could negatively impact the tourism industry of communities that rely on outdoor recreational activities as a critical component of their economy. AB 986 provides a degree of ease by providing that persons 16 years of age or older, be issued a sport fishing license for twelve consecutive months upon payment of the fee. This changes current law which specifies a sport fishing license is valid for the period of a calendar year, or, if issued after the beginning of the year, for the remainder thereof.

Additionally, AB 986 would reduce the fee for a license by 25% for a person who is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, was honorably discharged, and is a resident of California. Furthermore, there would be a 50% reduction for a person who meets those requirements and who also has a 50% or greater service-connected disability. AB 986 is a modest step to help increase the number of fishing licenses sold as well as benefiting the tourism economies of many rural counties in the State.

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

Sincerely,



MARY-ANN WARMERDAM
Senior Legislative Advocate

cc: Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Patricia Bates, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Jim Nielsen, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Steven Bradford, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Joel Anderson, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Mike Morrell, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Andy Vidak, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Frank Bigelow, Member of State Assembly
The Honorable William Brough, Member of State Assembly
The Honorable Rocky Chavez, Member of State Assembly
The Honorable Matthew Harper, Member of State Assembly
The Honorable Tom Lackey, Member of State Assembly
The Honorable Devon Mathis, Member of State Assembly
The Honorable Marc Steinorth, Member of State Assembly
The Honorable Randy Voepel, Member of State Assembly
The Honorable Catharine Baker, Member of State Assembly
The Honorable Dante Acosta, Member of State Assembly
The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Member of State Assembly
The Honorable Jim Patterson, Member, California State Assembly
The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Member of State Assembly

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