

THE CALIFORNIA PARKS COMPANY

March 12, 2018

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

RE: Oppose Assembly Bill 2787: Lead Fishing Weight Ban

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The California Parks Company is a leader in providing outdoor recreation opportunities to the public at California's major inland waters including: Diamond Valley Lake, Vail Lake and Lake Hemet (Riverside County); Lake Gregory (San Bernardino County); Camache Lake (Amador County); Los Vaqueros (Contra Costa County); Lake Chabot (Alameda County); Anderson, Calero, Lexington, Coyote Reservoirs (Santa Clara County); and Lake Shasta (Shasta County) and Trinity, Lewiston Lakes (Trinity County).

We provide rental water craft and watersports recreation that attracts thousands of visitors annually. The key to many recreationists well-being is the chance to enjoy the great outdoors on the water, including families from every demographic and region of the state. Fishing is one of the prime reasons so many people come to our lakes where they can enjoy the benefits of a low tech, high touch experience. This helps center their busy lives without breaking the bank on an expensive outdoor experience.

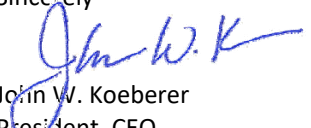
The science and the impacts of your proposed legislation to ban lead weights is clearly suspect by the multiple reports and investigations available in both the press and academia. This legislation will only drive more families and individuals away from the outdoor experience as the state adds additional regulatory burdens that COSTS THEM MONEY, without any supported offset benefit.

Your legislation will force higher costs onto the simple act of teaching their children the value of a relaxing and inspirational pastime when they need it most, their formative years. Dad and Mom can't simply double the cost of a starter fishing rig and justify the experience because it may benefit some migratory bird that never visits the local lake and will never be exposed to the tiny amount of lead in weights or sinkers.

This bill combined with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's failure to sufficiently stock lakes and its costly annual fishing license, threaten the hundreds of workers at our marina and lake operations. We support the efforts to bring legislation that supports the angling community and its efforts to expand this truly important family valued experience. This bill does not achieve this objective.

Please reject this statewide ban approach and get behind the public's need for quality recreation outdoors.

Sincerely


John W. Koeberer
President, CEO
The California Parks Company

Cc California Sportfishing League, California State Chamber of Commerce, CalTravel, CPHA

URBAN PARK CONCESSIONAIRES - CALIFORNIA GUEST SERVICES, INC.

All dba THE CALIFORNIA PARKS COMPANY

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