



3/7/18

Assembly Member Bill Quirk
Environmental Safety and Toxic materials Committee
1020 N. Street, room 171
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Assemblyman Quirk,

I am writing you this letter today on behalf of my family and our company, Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching located in Dana Point, Ca. and our US Coast Guard licensed Captains. Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching takes out thousands of fisherman each year. We have a long history of being environmentally responsible for our fishing resource and are located in the heart of Orange County, Ca. My father, Don Hansen, founder of Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching has made it his life's mission to protect the resource. We are concerned about your Assembly Bill 2787, which would outlaw the manufacturer, sale and purchase of lead-based fishing weights under 50 grams (which is one and three quarter ounces).

Our company, Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching, is unique because the majority of our fishing customers are ½ day, which is a five hour trip. The majority of those fishing customers are families with children many that are being introduced to fishing for the first time. Our standard tackle package consists of two, 1.5 ounce lead based weights and hooks.

This is important because 90% of the fishing weights used on these trips are specifically targeted by your bill of lead based fishing weights under 50 grams. A few years ago Prop 65 required all sellers of lead based weights to label and bag all weights which caused the price of the weights to go up and then that cost was passed on to our customers. Please understand the Sportfishing industry survives on a very small margin already, we do all we can to keep down prices the best we can. Keeping fishing affordable for everyone including a family of four is very important to us and the success of our business.

California as you know has seen a decline in fishing licenses sales and a decline in fishing activities state wide, imposing a BAN of this kind on small sinkers will only decline the fishing population more instead of raising it. Please help, we urge you to take some more time to look into the science of lead weights in ocean waters to see if we even have a problem. Although this is not a fishing ban, banning fishing products is largely the same thing, it sends a message that fishing is bad so let's ban it. I never thought I would see the day when a small sinker in a child's tackle box could be illegal? California loves to fish let us send a joint message that our State Legislature is concerned about the environment but also supports its Fisherman by not banning lead weights for fishing. The California Fish and Wildlife has just created a Recreational Angler Stakeholder group called R3, the R3 stands for recruitment, retention, and reactivation! The first one is to recruit new anglers, please don't ban the tackle that many anglers who start fishing for the first time will use. I welcome a further discussion with you and your committee. I can be reached at 949-496-5794 or my email dmkalez@gmail.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna Kalez". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Donna Kalez
Managing partner / co owner
Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching
Sportfishing of California Board Member, Coastal Conservation Association – California Board Member