



March 22, 2018

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

SUB: Opposition to AB 2787 (Quirk): Lead Fishing Weight Ban

Dear Assemblyman Quirk,

The community of Mammoth Lakes is located in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains, a world-renowned tourism destination all year round. During spring, summer and fall, tourists flock to our region for fishing, hiking and camping. Recreational anglers are critical fueling our economy, tax base and supporting local jobs. Summer visitors to Mammoth Lakes on average spend nearly \$1,500 per trip.

Our position is in alignment with California's small business and hospitality industry that is very concerned about the economic implications of banning lead fishing tackle without any substantive analysis specific to California wildlife. This is particularly concerning for our region since banning weights 50 grams (1.75 ounces) are used most frequently for fresh-water fishing.

It is no secret that California's fishing participation rate has declined significantly, and in large part to the fact that fishing in California is extraordinarily costly and becoming less accessible. Alternative products on the market can cost to two-three times, or even more. As participation rates decline due to added costs, so will license sale revenue that funds the fish hatcheries that stock our local rivers and lakes, and conservation programs that protect local wildlife, and keep our waters pristine. As you well know, the 2017 the Fish and Game Preservation Fund program experienced a \$20 million deficit.

Without analysis specific to California, this legislation will not only pose an unreasonable economic burden on anglers, but the hospitality and small businesses community dependent on outdoor recreation and tourism for jobs. For these stated reasons, the Mammoth Lakes small business community opposes AB2787.

Respectively,

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

Signature

John Urdi – Executive Director Mammoth Lakes Tourism

CC: Members of the Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Substance
Senator Tom Berryhill, Assembly Member Frank Bigelow, California Travel Association