

March 29, 2018

The Honorable Bill Quirk  
Assemblyman, 20<sup>th</sup> AD  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJ: Assembly Bill 2787 (lead sinkers and weights)

POSITION: Oppose

Dear Assemblymember Quirk:

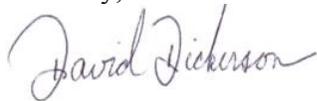
On behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), I thank you for the opportunity to express the association's strong opposition to Assembly Bill 2787, which would ban all lead weights with a cross section greater than or equal to two centimeters in length, is under 50 grams in mass, and contains more than 0.1 percent lead by weight.

NMMA is the leading recreational marine industry trade association in North America, representing 1,500 boat, engine, and accessory manufacturers. NMMA members collectively produce more than 80 percent of the recreational marine products sold in the United States. Recreational boating is a popular pastime in California, with more than 697,000 registered recreational boats. The recreational boating industry contributes \$8.9 billion and over 48,000 jobs to the state's economy.

A significant majority of people use their boats for fishing. This potential ban on lead weights would seriously stunt California's recreational fishing activities while risking the economic well-being of the businesses who depend upon strong fishing participation for their livelihood. Boat dealers, manufacturers, restaurants, the hotel industry and tourism as a whole are all detrimentally affected by a loss in recreational angling. California's recreational fishing licenses have declined 55% since the 1980s and this bill will further discourage recreational angling and the sale of boats, trailers, engines and accessories. Alternatives to lead tackle have limited applications, do not provide comparable performance and are between 10 and 20 times more expensive than lead. Except for when affixing a weight to their line, anglers seldom touch the lead they use for tackle, and frankly claims that anglers often handle weights between casts are completely inaccurate. This bill is an overreach and overregulates America's favorite outdoor pastime.

For these reasons, NMMA strongly opposes AB2787. If you should have any questions, please contact me at [ddickerson@nmma.org](mailto:ddickerson@nmma.org).

Sincerely,



David Dickerson  
Vice-President State Government Relations

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