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THE APEX GROUP

March 12, 2018

Assembly Member Bill Quirk, Chair
Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, California 95814

SUBJECT: AB 2787 (Quirk) – Oppose

Dear Assembly Member Quirk:

On behalf of our clients, the California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains, the California Yacht Brokers Association, the Marina Recreation Association, and the Western Boaters Safety Group, the purpose of this letter is to present our opposition to AB 2787 that will ban all lead weights and sinkers 50 grams or less.

The organizations listed above represent the breadth of California's boating industry and 76% of boat owners are anglers. The membership of these organizations includes private marina owners and operators, public agency marina managers, marine manufacturers, boat dealers, boating publications, yacht brokers, boat repair facilities, marine insurance and financing firms, and more than 18,000 individual boaters.

Licensed anglers in California have already declined 55% since 1980 and we would implore you and your committee to take a completely different approach to this bill. We can appreciate the need to make sure that California is the leading state for environmental protections; however, we believe that there is no empirical evidence to show that lead weights and sinkers are causing any material damage to California's environment and the wildlife that roam the land. We believe that there should be more research conducted to find definitively if there is an actual harm to California's environment before deciding to ban all lead weights and sinkers in California.

We hope you will take a different approach to AB 2787.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bret Gladfelty', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bret Gladfelty

cc: Members, Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee