

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

March 16, 2018

Honorable Assembly Member Bill Quirk, Chair and Members of the Committee.

As a native Californian born and raised in the foothills of Northern California I have always revered and appreciated all wildlife and lands of this state. My first memories in life are filled with fishing trips on my father's lap and camping trip in the wild. These wonderful memories were affordable for a family of six living on my father's salary as a teacher. When I became a father myself, I cherished the fishing trips with my three daughters. It was one of the pleasures we could afford as I worked overtime to put my wife through college. I am one of many that firmly believe the love and appreciation of the outdoors begins early in life. I am also one of many that firmly believe a ban on lead fishing tackle will be bad for California.

Like yourself, I can afford the impact of the ban. I will still fish with the inconvenience of the ban. And I will continue to buy a fishing license as I have done for 37 years. Have you considered the impact on those less fortunate? Will the elderly on a fixed income afford your ban? Will young families on a tight budget take their children fishing? Will our young anglers--the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts--forgo opportunities to fish in favor of cell phones and video games?

If you truly care about the fish and wildlife of California, start by supporting the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Annual license sales have declined 55% since 1980. This bill will only hasten this decline.

If you truly care about the fish and wildlife of California, keep fishing affordable for ALL citizens of this state. The true stewards this resource are the folks that love fishing and the outdoors. Please listen to us and look at the larger and concrete impacts of this short sighted ban.

Sincerely,

Brent Foster
Secretary
Paradise Bass Club