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March 13, 2017

The Honorable Tom Berryhill  
California State Senate  
State Capitol Room 3067  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: SB 234 (Fishing: local regulation: prohibition) – Support**

Dear Senator Berryhill:

On behalf of our clients, the California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains, the California Yacht Brokers Association, the Marina Recreation Association, the National Marine Manufacturers Association, and the Worldwide Boaters Safety Group, we are pleased to offer our support for your bill, SB 234.

The organizations listed above represent the breadth of California's boating industry. 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 28,000 individual boaters.

Limited access to fishing is one of the major contributors to declining recreational fishing participation rates in California. Regulations are often difficult for anglers to navigate, and they become even more challenging when local ordinances that restrict fishing are imposed. Existing statutory law delegates to the Fish and Game Commission the power to regulate the taking or possession of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles in accordance with prescribed laws.

Under existing law, the Department of Fish and Wildlife exercises various functions with regard to the taking of fish and game. Under existing law, a city or county, or local public agency, has no authority to regulate fish and game except that a city or county may adopt an ordinance that incidentally affects fishing and hunting for the protection of public health and safety. Senate Bill 234 is declaratory of existing law that provides and codifies authority to the Fish and Game Commission. Additionally, the bill requires the court to grant damages to the prevailing party in an action and allows the court to award punitive damages.

As the trade associations representing the boating and marine industries, we believe it is critical that we enhance water-based recreational opportunities, rather than impose unnecessary hindrances. Fishing is a critical aspect of our economy and our heritage, and a key element of boating. For this reason, we are pleased to support, SB 234.

Sincerely,

William Krauss

cc: Members, Senate Natural Resources Committee