



April 23, 2018

The Honorable Tom Berryhill
Senator, District 8
State Capitol, Room 3067
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 518 (Berryhill): 12-Month Fishing License – SUPPORT

Dear Mr. Berryhill,

The **National Federation of Independent Business, California**, on behalf of our 22,000 dues-paying small business members across the state, is pleased to support Senate Bill 518, which aims to simplify licensing requirements and increase fishing participation rates.

Recreational fishing in California contributes over \$4.6 billion in economic activity each year, supporting small businesses, jobs, and generating tax revenue for nearly every California county dependent on outdoor tourism and recreation.

Recreational fishing's economic contribution to California is seriously threatened by a decline in fishing participation which is reflected by an unprecedented decline in fishing license sales. In addition to additional restrictions on fishing, the cost of fishing in California has become cost prohibitive with little value in a fishing license that is not valid for a full 12-month period.

In 1980, the State of California sold over 2.4 million licenses, and at the current rate of decline, projections are that less than 500,000 will be sold in California by 2027. This trend puts jobs at risk as fewer anglers patronize small businesses.

Establishing a 12-month fishing license is a solid first step toward supporting recreational fishing and its significant economic benefits.

We thank you for introducing Senate Bill 518 and urge the Legislature to pass this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shawn Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Shawn Lewis
Policy Director