

Mono County Fish & Wildlife Commission  
P.O. Box 603  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

May 2, 2018

The Honorable Tom Berryhill  
State Capitol, Room 3076  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT Senate Bill 518

Dear Senator Berryhill,

On behalf of the Mono County Fish & Wildlife Commission, I am pleased to report that our commission has decided to offer our support to SB 518 (Berryhill), a 12-month Fishing License Position.

Recreational fishing in California generates \$4.6 billion in annual economic activity and attracts tourists from throughout the world. However, fishing license sales have declined 55% since 1980 and as a result, California is now experiencing the lowest fishing participation rate in the country. All of this raises concerns that declining participation rates will have a profound economic impact on the communities and families dependent on recreational fishing for tourism, jobs and tax revenue.

Many jobs in our local industry are directly impacted by recreational fishing, especially in the Eastern Sierra, a world-renown trout fishing destination. The diverse fishing experience our state offers is why many tourists select California and the Eastern Sierra over other destinations for an exceptional outdoor adventure.

The current system is not working and shows no promise of reversing fishing license sales' downward trend. In contrast, SB 518 shifts the State of California from an antiquated fishing license system to one that provides greater savings and value, all the qualities a consumer product requires to increase sales and increase participation. We are confident that SB 518 will increase fishing license sales and restore critical funding to state wildlife programs.

For these reasons, the Mono County Fish & Wildlife Commission is supporting SB 518.

Sincerely,  
  
Gaye Mueller  
Chair, Mono County Fish & Wildlife Commission