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## THE APEX GROUP

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May 7, 2018

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

***SUBJECT: SB 518 (Berryhill) – 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 and the National Marine Manufacturers Association, we are pleased to offer our support for your bill, SB 518.

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.

As organizations that represent thousands of boaters and businesses that serve them, we are deeply concerned about the decline in recreational fishing, as boating is inextricably linked to this activity. In 1980, California sold over 2.2 million annual fishing licenses at a cost of just \$5. However, today the base price for an annual fishing license has skyrocketed to \$48.34, while the number of annual licenses sold has dropped a staggering 55%. This is an alarming trend that is evident to anglers, businesses and the California communities' dependent on recreational fishing for tourism, jobs and tax revenue.

SB 518 seeks to reform California's antiquated fishing license system, much like many other states have already done, by abandoning a calendar year license for one that is valid for a full 12 months from the date of purchase. Increasing the value of California's annual fishing license should slow declining participation rates and increase sales and revenue for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's fishery and conservation programs.

From a boating perspective, this bill makes common sense as it will enhance participation in recreational fishing and thereby improve all the economic activity surrounding this activity, which is why we are pleased to support this important measure.

Sincerely,

Bret Gladfelty

cc: Senator Tom Berryhill  
Members, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee