

March 15, 2018



Assemblyman Bill Quirk
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 2787- Lead fishing weights and sinkers
Position: OPPOSE

Dear Assemblyman Quirk,

The San Diego County Wildlife Federation, a conglomerate of hunting, fishing and outdoor clubs in San Diego County representing 17,000 sportsmen and women, urge you to pull AB-2787 from consideration as a new law for California for the following reasons:

There is absolutely no scientific evidence that lead fishing weights have threaten the extinction of any winged or aquatic populations within California. Even in New Hampshire where a few loon deaths have been related to ingestion of lead, the population is still on the increase. If there have been any isolated incidences in California, it does not suggest a significant risk to wildlife found in the waters of the state, or the justification for a statewide ban. Our bird and aquatic populations are stable or increasing.

A ban on lead fishing weights and sinkers will harm California's already dismal fishing participation rates by driving up the cost of fishing tackle. Additionally, the prohibition of lead in fishing weights will harm California's outdoor tourism and jobs dependent on recreational fishing for economic activity, approximately \$4.6 billion per year. This decline in equipment sales will result in less revenue to the state which is used to fund wildlife conservation and habitat programs as well as less taxes collected on fishing gear through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act funds.

Since California is one of the country's largest consumer markets for fishing tackle and outdoor equipment, the bill could create a financial hardship on numerous American tackle manufacturers and mom-and-pop tackle shops in your district as well as the rest of the state

For the foregoing reasons, the San Diego County Wildlife Federation OPPOSES AB-2787

Sincerely,

Gary F. Brennan

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