



March 28, 2018

Assemblymember Adam Gray  
Chairman  
Assembly Governmental Organization Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 156  
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: AB 3199 (Holden) Charitable Raffles: firearms – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Gray:

The California Waterfowl Association regrets that it must oppose AB 3199 (Holden), which has been assigned to your committee.

California Waterfowl works to restore wetlands, and to maximize the food and habitat value of existing wetlands for both local breeding populations and migratory waterfowl. The organization is rated four stars by Charity Navigator ([www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)). California Waterfowl believes that hunters are the driving force for wetland conservation. CWA works to ensure that Californians have adequate access to hunting lands, and that regulations and laws don't stifle responsible, ethical hunting.

As part of its fund-raising efforts, California Waterfowl holds dinners in various communities throughout the state of California. At the dinners, California Waterfowl conducts raffles, silent auctions, and live auctions. A major draw to those activities is the possibility of obtaining a firearm. Firearms are an important part of hunting and are expensive to obtain. The presence of firearms at these dinners is a major draw and account for 75 to 80 percent of the proceeds of raffles and auctions.

All transfers of firearms won at California Waterfowl events are conducted in accordance with existing legal requirements. Firearms are transferred through federal firearms licensees, observing the safety testing, waiting period, and all other requirements. All firearms offered as prizes are legal to be purchased or transferred in California. There is no evidence that firearms obtained through California Waterfowl events have ever been used to commit a crime.

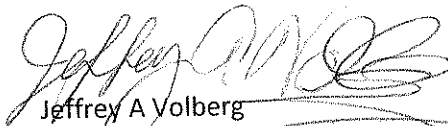
Removing the ability of California Waterfowl to offer firearms as raffle or auction prizes would greatly diminish the organization's ability to carry out its mission of conserving and maintaining the remaining five percent of California's historical wetlands. These wetlands serve as habitat for the millions of waterfowl that migrate into California every fall and winter along the Pacific Flyway. Wetlands also serve as habitat for resident waterfowl, shorebirds, and several endangered species. Two thirds of California's remaining wetlands are on private lands, mainly dedicated to waterfowl hunting. Without the efforts of

organizations such as California Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, and the Grassland Water District, these species would be left without suitable habitat.

California Waterfowl will also oppose amendments to AB 3199 that would prohibit offering specific guns, such as handguns or AR-15 type rifles. These prohibitions would create a slippery slope toward ever-increasing restrictions that would have the same effect in the long run as an outright ban. Again, there is no evidence that the provision of firearms at charity raffles is linked to crime or mass shootings. Any ban on charities being able to offer firearms as raffle prizes or auction items would have no impact on crime, but would cause irreparable damage to charity organizations.

California Waterfowl urges your "No" vote on this unnecessary bill. If you would like further information about California Waterfowl and its conservation programs, please contact Jeffrey Volberg at (916) 217-5117 or [jvolberg@calwaterfowl.org](mailto:jvolberg@calwaterfowl.org) or Mark Hennelly at (916) 648-1406 or [mhennelly@calwaterfowl.org](mailto:mhennelly@calwaterfowl.org).

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A Volberg

Director of Water Law & Policy

CC: Assemblymember Frank Bigelow  
Asse~~mbly~~member Dante Acosta  
Asse~~mbly~~member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
Asse~~mbly~~member Marc Berman  
Asse~~mbly~~member Rob Bonta  
Asse~~mbly~~member Ken Cooley  
Asse~~mbly~~member Jim Cooper  
Asse~~mbly~~member Tom Daly  
Asse~~mbly~~member James Gallagher  
Asse~~mbly~~member Eduardo Garcia  
Asse~~mbly~~member Mike A. Gipson  
Asse~~mbly~~member Todd Gloria  
Asse~~mbly~~member Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Jr.  
Asse~~mbly~~member Marc Levine  
Asse~~mbly~~member Evan Low  
Asse~~mbly~~member Chad Mayes  
Asse~~mbly~~member Blanca E. Rubio  
Asse~~mbly~~member Rudy Salas, Jr.  
Asse~~mbly~~member Marc Steinorth  
Asse~~mbly~~member Marie Waldron  
Asse~~mbly~~member Chris R. Holden