



March 22, 2017

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer
Chairman
Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 7 (Gipson) Open carry of a long gun in an unincorporated area
Position: Oppose

Dear Assemblyman Jones-Sawyer:

The California Waterfowl Association regrets that it must oppose AB 7 by Assemblymember Gipson, as introduced. The bill would prohibit the carrying of an unloaded firearm other than a handgun while in or upon a public place or public street within a prohibited area located within the unincorporated area of a county. A "prohibited area" is usually defined as an area that has a non-discharge ordinance.

California Waterfowl's 20,000 members are primarily waterfowl hunters. Each hunter buys a hunting license annually. In order to receive an initial hunting license, a person has to take a hunter safety course and pass a test. California Waterfowl emphasizes hunter safety in its educational programs.

Under AB 7, a hunter would be in violation of the law for carrying an unloaded shotgun to or from a gunsmith's shop or a sporting goods store, if the shop or store is located in a prohibited area. A licensed, safety-trained hunter could be convicted of a serious crime for carrying out a safe and otherwise innocent action connected with her recreational activity.

For further discussion of this bill and its unintended consequences, please call Jeffrey Volberg at (916) 217-5117, or email him at jvolberg@calwaterfowl.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Volberg". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval. Below the signature, the name and title of the signatory are printed.

Jeffrey A Volberg
Director of Water Law & Policy
California Waterfowl Association

Cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Public Safety
Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations