



June 5, 2018

The Honorable Robert Hertzberg, Chair
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
State Capitol, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2151 (Gray) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) urges you to support AB 2151 (Gray), which would reduce the price for apprentice hunters of a resident antelope, elk, bear, and bighorn sheep tag to \$20.

CWA supports this legislation because it would reduce hunting tag fees that in many cases are excessive to a price that is more affordable and in-line with what other western states charge their resident youth hunters.

California hunting license and tag fees are amongst the highest of any state. Hunter surveys suggest that costs of licenses and other requirements can be a barrier to hunting participation. AB 2151 would help to address this issue by making big game hunting opportunities more affordable for youth hunters regardless of income or class.

Reducing the tag fees should encourage additional youth hunters to apply for tags each year. This would help offset the reduction in tag price so that there is less fiscal impact to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Please note that the dedicated account (i.e. Big Game Management Account) into which big game tag fees are deposited has incurred a surplus of funds in recent years. If a portion of these funds cannot be spent on big game habitat and other conservation projects in a timely manner, then it seems entirely reasonable to provide some cost relief to the purchasers of the tags.

For these reasons, please support AB 2151 when it is considered by your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Hennelly".

Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Legislative Affairs and Public Policy
California Waterfowl Association

Cc: Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
The Honorable Adam Gray, Assembly Member, 21st District