



June 5, 2018

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

SUB: AB 986 (Gallagher) – Veteran’s Discount on Hunting and Fishing License Fees
POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) is pleased to support AB 986 (Gallagher) which will make fishing and hunting more accessible to California veterans. The legislation reduces the cost of all licenses and fishing validations for honorably discharged California veterans. It also reforms Sportfishing licenses, by giving anglers a license option that is valid for 12 consecutive months from date of purchase.

CWA is a 20,000 member nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of California’s waterfowl, wetlands and hunting heritage. Many of our members are active hunters and fishermen, and CWA’s programs include outdoor access opportunities, including programs focused on the needs of California veterans.

When California is the most expensive state in the Nation to hunt and fish, the need for this legislation could not be timelier. Surveys suggest that high costs related to hunting, for example, such as licenses, access to private land, equipment, etc. are a significant reason why middle or lower income people do not hunt or hunt less.

According to a 2015 study, developed by the California Sportfishing League, fishing license sales have decreased by over 55% since 1980, and the high cost of fishing licenses in California is a leading barrier to participation.

A California fishing license currently is good for a calendar year, meaning that, no matter the date of purchase, the license expires on December 31st. Many states have already adopted a new

fee structure and marketing program, reforming this antiquated program, issuing a license for 12 consecutive months, and increasing participation and outdoor tourism.

AB 986 will give anglers more options by leaving the current annual license in place and offering a 12 consecutive month license as another option at 130% the cost of the regular license. Most importantly, AB 986 will reward American veterans who have defended our freedom with honor, and assist them with rehabilitation by providing a wholesome form of recreation for them and their families.

Please support AB 986 when it is considered by your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Hennelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Legislative Affairs
California Waterfowl Association

Cc: Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Assembly Member James Gallagher