



March 27, 2019

The Honorable Jim Wood
 California State Capitol, Room 6005
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1387: 365-Day Sportfishing Fishing License - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wood,

The undersigned wildlife conservation organizations are pleased to strongly support your AB 1387 – legislation that would require issuance of sport fishing licenses that expire 12 months after the date of purchase and enable licenses and validations to be displayed on an electronic mobile device.

Anglers and hunters generate significant revenue for California’s natural resource conservation efforts – contributing nearly a full one-quarter of the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s annual funding needs. Fishing and hunting also fuel a powerful economic engine in our state – generating nearly \$3.5 billion a year for California, with an economic stimulus of roughly \$18 million a day. Spending by sportsmen and women in California also produces almost \$500 million in state and local taxes per year, while sustaining nearly 60,000 jobs.

Yet, the significant contributions anglers make to our state’s natural resources and economy are at great risk. Since 1980 – while California’s population has swelled to nearly 40 million – annual resident sport fishing license sales have declined by 55%. A major reason for this decline being that currently a California fishing license is good for the calendar year – meaning that, regardless of when the license is purchased, it will expire on December 31st. With the typical Californian not likely to hit the water until the weather warms, many who may want to fish at that time choose not to due to high cost of purchasing a license that will soon expire.

Your AB 1387 would take a long overdue step towards stemming this concerning decline by establishing a fishing license that is valid for 365-days from the date of purchase and allowing the license to be displayed on a cell phone. By making fishing much more affordable and easier to participate in for many

Californians, AB 1387 will restore greater public participation in our angling traditions and enhanced revenues to the state.

The long-term health of California's fish and wildlife resources depend upon a robust fishing and hunting community and the revenues they generate for conservation. By making fishing more affordable and convenient, your AB 1387 would most certainly increase fishing license sales and the critical annual funding streams anglers generate for conservation efforts throughout our state.

For all the above reasons, the undersigned wildlife conservation organizations are pleased to strongly support your AB 1387.

Sincerely,

Kyle Weaver, President and CEO
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Mark Hennelly, V.P. of Government Affairs
California Waterfowl Association

Lori Jacobs, President
California Houndsmen for Conservation

Gary F. Brennan, President
San Diego County Wildlife Federation

Fred Harpster, President
The Black Brant Group

Dennis Slater, President
Tulare Basin Wetlands Association

Aoibheann Cline, Western States Coordinator
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Donn Walgamuth, President
California Deer Association

Don Kirby, President
Cal-Ore Wetland and Waterfowl Council

Chriss Bowles, President
California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association

Darryl Williams, President
California Chapter – Wild Sheep Foundation

Rick Travis, Executive Director
California Rifle and Pistol Association

Cathie Nelson, President
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter – Safari Club International

Dawnita Harwood, President
California State Chapter – National Wild Turkey Federation