



March 1, 2019

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 284 (Frazier) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

Our organizations, which collectively represent hundreds of thousands of sportsmen, landowners and wildlife enthusiasts across California, urge you to support AB 284 (Frazier), which would make permanent the Junior Hunting License age extension.

In 2014, AB 1709 (Frazier) was signed into law which increased Junior Hunting License age eligibility from 15 to 17 years of age. However, the measure included a 5-year sunset provision, so that additional legislation is now necessary to maintain that regulatory change.

A Junior License not only offers young people the opportunity to participate in a number of high-quality hunting activities that are sponsored by the Department of Fish and Wildlife or nonprofit wildlife conservation groups, but is also available at a significantly reduced price (\$12.70) as compared with the Adult Hunting License (\$48.34). Both cost and limited access have been shown to be barriers to hunting participation via a number of national reports and surveys, and AB 284 would help to address those issues.

It should be noted that several other states like Illinois and Colorado also provide discounted youth hunting licenses for people under 18 years of age. In addition, at the federal level in 2016 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service increased the age eligibility for youth waterfowl hunts from 15 to 17 years of age.

Please also note that, after AB 1709 was passed in California in 2014, hunting license revenue did not decrease and actually increased slightly the following year.

Finally, the proposed permanent change to Junior Hunting License age eligibility in AB 284 would more closely match the ages at which California law generally deems someone as an ‘adult’ or ‘minor’. In addition, to help address cost differences between youth hunting and youth fishing requirements, the bill would provide greater cost parity over time between the two.

For these reasons, please support AB 284 when it is considered by your committee.

Sincerely,

Mark Hennelly, Vice President
California Waterfowl Association

Ric Ortega, Manager
Grassland Water District

Andy Treharne, Senior Director of Western States
Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation

John Devney, Vice President
Delta Waterfowl

Lori Jacobs, President
California Houndsmen for Conservation

Roy Griffith, Legislative Liaison
California Rifle and Pistol Association

Darryl Williams, President
California Chapter – Wild Sheep Foundation

Don Kirby, President
Cal-Ore Wetland and Waterfowl Council

Chriss Bowles, President
California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association

Kyle Weaver, President and CEO
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Gary F. Brennan, President
San Diego County Wildlife Federation

cc: Members, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee