



June 6, 2019

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

Re: SB 257 (Nielsen) Firearms: prohibited persons – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Jones-Sawyer:

The California Waterfowl Association is pleased to support SB 257 (Nielsen), which has been assigned to your committee.

California Waterfowl works to restore wetlands, and to maximize the food and habitat value of existing wetlands for both local breeding populations and migratory waterfowl. California Waterfowl believes that hunters are the driving force for wetland conservation. CWA works to ensure that Californians have adequate access to hunting lands, and that regulations and laws don't stifle responsible, ethical hunting.

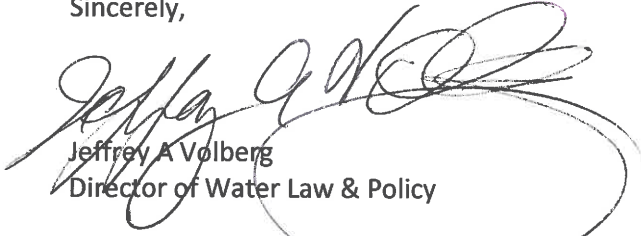
The California Department of Justice maintains a database of persons who are prohibited from owning or possessing firearms because they have been convicted of crimes or adjudicated with mental illnesses that disqualify them. This database is known as the Armed Prohibited Persons System or APPS. There is a backlog of persons on the list who have not yet been disarmed.

SB 257 would require the Department to inform a local law enforcement agency when a person is added to the APPS list who lives in the agency's jurisdiction. This will allow local law enforcement to be aware of the person's presence and status, and will help to ensure that the person is disarmed.

This bill is a common sense measure that focuses on the criminal or mentally ill person who is most likely to commit violence, rather than cast a wide net at law-abiding gun owners. By sharing the data from the APPS, the Department will be helping itself enforce the prohibition on firearms possession, while helping local law enforcement avoid violence.

California Waterfowl urges your "Yes" vote on this bill. If you would like further information about California Waterfowl and its conservation programs, please contact Jeffrey Volberg at (916) 217-5117 or jvolberg@calwaterfowl.org or Mark Hennelly at (916) 648-1406 or mhennelly@calwaterfowl.org.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A Volberg
Director of Water Law & Policy