



March 22, 2020

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

**RE: AB 3022 (Oberholte) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) respectfully requests that you support AB 3022 (Oberholte), which would maintain Junior Hunting License age eligibility for 16 and 17 year olds for a one year period.

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 Hunting License not only offers young people the opportunity to participate in a number of high-quality outdoor activities that are sponsored by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) or nonprofit wildlife conservation groups, but is also available at a significantly reduced price (\$13.22) as compared with the Adult Hunting License (\$49.94).

Many other states, including neighboring Oregon [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/licenses\\_regs/youth.asp](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/licenses_regs/youth.asp), Nevada [http://www.ndow.org/Forms\\_and\\_Resources/License\\_Fees/](http://www.ndow.org/Forms_and_Resources/License_Fees/) and Arizona <https://www.azgfd.com/License/>, offer reduce-fee hunting licenses for 16 and 17 year olds because they are generally not considered adults under other provisions of law and those states recognize the value of recruiting new hunters in order to support wildlife conservation work, including habitat restoration and enhancement projects as well as wildlife enforcement efforts.

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. If AB 3022 is not approved, this will create confusion amongst California hunters by having different state and federal age standards for waterfowl hunting.

It should be noted that nearly 80% of hunters start hunting as youth, according to Families Afield [http://www.familiesafield.org/Getting\\_Involved.cfm](http://www.familiesafield.org/Getting_Involved.cfm). Thus efforts to recruit and retain hunters should necessarily focus, at least in part, on young people—many of whom do not personally have sufficient finances to hunt nor easy access to rural lands.

Please note that in the year (2015) following passage of the original legislation (AB 1709), there were approximately 6,000 more Junior Hunting Licenses purchased than the year before (based on data from DFW). Total hunting license revenues and items (from all sources, including validations like stamps and tags) also increased in 2015.

For these reasons, please support AB 3022 when it is considered by your committee.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Members, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
The Honorable Jay Obernolte, Assemblymember, 33<sup>rd</sup> District