March 27, 2019

The Honorable Jim Wood
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJ:** Support Assembly Bill 1387 (Wood): 365-Day Sportfishing Fishing license

Dear Assemblymember Wood,

On behalf of the 1,063,000 travel/tourism and hospitality jobs in the state of California, the following organizations are pleased to offer their support for legislation that aims to increase fishing participation
rates critical to protecting our state’s economy, jobs, and state and local tax revenue. California’s travel and tourism industry are responsible for $130 billion in direct travel spending from visitors and contributes $10 billion in state and local taxes each year. Tens of thousands of California jobs are directly impacted by over 2.6 million California anglers, which contribute over $4.6 billion in economic activity each year.

Since 1980, annual resident sport fishing license sales have declined 55% while the state’s population has increased over 60%. While California has a population of more than 39.8 million people, one of the country’s longest coastlines, more than 3,000 lakes and thousands of rivers and streams, it has the lowest fishing participation rate per capita in the country.

One of the contributing factors is California’s costly annual fishing license that expires on December 31st of each year, regardless of when purchased. Because most anglers will not pay full price for a license that is not valid a full 365-days from the date of purchase, California Department of Fish and Wildlife fishing license data reveals that annual license sales peak in the first quarter of the year and then decline significantly by late Spring, even as weather warms and outdoor recreational activity increases.

Establishing a license that is valid for 365-days from the date of purchase, along with an app that will display fishing licenses on mobile devices, will help address California’s declining fishing participation rate. As has been the case in other states that market 365-day licenses, the state stands to benefit from new sales and revenue that can be used for funding important wildlife and conservation programs.

We are pleased to support AB 1387, legislation that will protect California’s standing as a premiere tourism and fishing destination.

Sincerely,


CC: Members, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife