



March 19, 2019

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

Re: AB 12 (Irwin) Gun violence restraining orders – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Jones-Sawyer:

The California Waterfowl Association regrets that it must oppose AB 12 (Irwin), 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. The organization is rated four stars by Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org). 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.

California Waterfowl did not oppose Ab 1014 (Skinner) in 2014, which created gun violence restraining orders, because California Waterfowl was able to ensure that the bill contained protections against arbitrary uses of the restraining orders to deprive law-abiding gun owners of their rights to possess firearms based on unsubstantiated allegations. Because a gun violence restraining order may be issued on an *ex parte* basis, due process requirements are important to avoid the imposition of harsh restrictions on gun orders without the opportunity of defense. California Waterfowl is concerned that AB 12 would upset the balance between the rights of the accused and the need of threatened persons for the protection of the restraining orders. It is still too early to tell whether or not the availability of gun violence restraining orders is having a positive effect in reducing the prevalence of gun violence.

California Waterfowl urges your "No" 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

