

April 28, 2013



The Honorable Paul Bocanegra, Chair
Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 167A
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 187 (Bonta) – OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Bocanegra:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) urges you to oppose AB 187 (Bonta), which would impose a 10% tax on the sale of ammunition.

Our Association opposes this measure due to its unwarranted impact on licensed hunters who purchase shotgun and rifle ammunition for legitimate sporting purposes. Not only is this type of sporting ammunition used in relatively few crimes overall in California, but the excellent safety record of licensed hunters (e.g. in most years there are only about two dozen total safety accidents from hunting) who purchase most of this ammunition clearly demonstrates that they are using it responsibly. Unfortunately, AB 760 indiscriminately penalizes hunters and other law abiding citizens for the illegal or irresponsible acts of others, rather than narrowly focusing its requirements on those who directly contribute to gun violence.

It should also be noted that there is already a significant (11%) tax placed on all ammunition via the federal Pittman-Robertson Act. That tax helps fund critically important wildlife habitat work on state wildlife areas, including those administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as hunter education activities. In addition, ammunition purchases constitute a significant portion of the overall costs of participating in waterfowl and dove hunting, for example, which generate other conservation monies via hunting license and associated stamp sales. By further taxing ammunition and increasing the cost of hunting, we believe AB 760 would create a financial disincentive for hunters to generate these wildlife conservation revenues.

For these reasons, please oppose AB 760 when it is considered before your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Hennelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Cc: Members, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee
The Honorable Rob Bonta, Assembly Member, 18th District
The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor, State of California