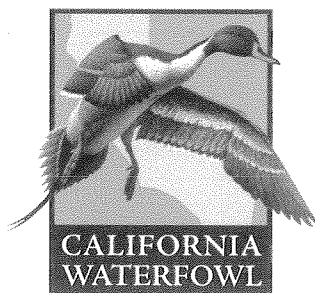


April 12, 2013



The Honorable Tom Ammiano, Chair  
Assembly Public Safety Committee  
1020 N Street, Suite 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 231 (Ting) – OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Ammiano:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) urges you to oppose AB 231 (Ting), which would make a person who owns a firearm strictly liable for each incidence of property damage, bodily injury or death resulting from the use of his or her firearm.

CWA opposes this measure because it would create a significant disincentive for someone to loan a firearm to another person for hunting or other legitimate sporting purposes. In particular, the bill would make it more difficult for young people who cannot legally purchase firearms on their own to actively participate in hunting and related activities, which conflicts with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and many conservation nonprofits' efforts to encourage greater youth participation in the outdoors. As a result, there would be less wildlife conservation funding available to DFW due to decreased hunting and associated stamp/tag revenues, as well as a reduction in federal Pittman-Robertson Act monies.

On a related note, AB 231 would also increase liability for hunter education instructors and others who volunteer to train individuals in the safe handling of firearms and marksmanship. Currently, there is a shortage of such instructors in many areas of the state, with prospective students often having to drive considerable distances or wait several weeks or even months in order to obtain classes. We believe AB 231 would exacerbate this situation by creating new liability concerns which would effectively reduce the number of willing instructors.

For these reasons, please oppose AB 231 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 style.

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

Cc: Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
The Honorable Philip Ting, Assembly Member, 19<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor, State of California