



March 24, 2017

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

RE: AB 521 (Frazier) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) urges you to support AB 521 (Frazier), which would reduce the price of a resident elk tag.

CWA supports this legislation because it would reduce a hunting-related fee that is arguably excessive (in 2015, approximately \$445 per elk tag) to a price that is more in-line with what other western states charge their residents.

California hunting license and tag fees are amongst the highest of any state. Hunter surveys suggest that costs of licenses and other requirements can be a barrier to hunting participation. AB 521 would help to address this issue by making elk hunting opportunities more affordable to all sportsmen and women regardless of income or class.

Reducing the elk tag fee should encourage additional hunters to apply for tags each year. This would help offset the reduction in tag price so that there is less fiscal impact to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Please note that the dedicated account (i.e. Big Game Management Account) into which elk tag fees are deposited has increasingly incurred a surplus of funds in recent years. If a portion of these funds cannot be spent on big game habitat and other conservation projects in a timely manner, then it seems entirely reasonable to provide some cost relief to the purchasers of the tags.

For these reasons, please support AB 521 when it is considered by your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue 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 Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
The Honorable Jim Frazier, Assembly Member, 11th District